

## Nigerian government recovers \$750 million from Abacha family

ABUJA (AFP) — The Nigerian government has recovered from the family of late Nigerian dictator General Sani Abacha more than \$750 million in different currencies looted from public funds, a top official said Monday. Members of the late dictator's family had as of last Friday handed over more than \$625 million and more than £75 million in hard currency, Mohammad Haruna, chief press secretary to General Abdul Salami Abu Bakar, told reporters here. The recovered funds have been put into a special account at the Central Bank of Nigeria while the government decides what should be done with them. Haruna said. "As at the close of business on Friday, a total of \$625,263,187.19 had been recovered from the family of the late General Sani Abacha, 75,306,884.93 pounds sterling had also been recovered," Haruna said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## Israeli air attack after guerrilla ambush in South Lebanon

TYRE (AP) — Israeli warplanes fired at least one missile on suspected guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon Monday. Lebanese security officials said. There was no immediate word on casualties from the afternoon raid on a valley between the Shiite Muslim villages of Yater and Jebel Al Boutom. The area, around 15 kilometers south of the port city of Tyre, is often used by Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas to launch attacks on Israeli troops occupying a border enclave in south Lebanon. The attack came after Hizbollah guerrillas ambushed an Israeli outpost at Bati, some three kilometers north of the Israeli border, the officials said. They spoke on customary condition of anonymity. A Hizbollah statement said the mortar attack caused "definite casualties." There was no immediate word from Israel on the guerrilla attack or the Israeli air raid.

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## 'Western allies closer to Iraq strike than thought'

Agencies

U.S.-LED military strikes against Iraq for refusing to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors may be closer than ordinary people in the Gulf region think, military sources in Kuwait said on Monday as Baghdad maintained its defiance of the U.N.

The [unannounced] U.S. decision in September on possible military action was coupled with the need to move quickly if the crisis deepened, as it has in the past few days," said one Western officer, speaking of preparations under way.

The latest standoff between Iraq and the United Nations started in August, but has escalated rapidly towards a possible military confrontation with U.S. and British forces in the Gulf in the last few days as U.N. inspectors left Baghdad.

"The Americans said [in September] that this time they would not allow things to drag on... countries given time to state their opposition and argue the point, envoys start going to Baghdad to try to find a way out for them..." a senior officer said.

British Defence Minister George Robertson, who

arrived in Kuwait on Sunday night, has said the current crisis would not be allowed to drag into the new year.

The last crisis with Iraq over arms inspections started in November last year, and was resolved in late February through an accord with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Defence ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were due to meet later on Monday in Riyadh, where they were expected to review the crisis and assess the varying levels of support for the military option.

The six states, which fought in the 1991 U.S.-led Gulf war over Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait, have in the last few days given Washington permission to use some of their military infrastructure for strikes against Iraq, Gulf and Western military officials said.

Not all of them did so during the previous crisis with Iraq. "I don't think this time you will see all the hoopla [warning] of [Iraqi] chemical weapons attacks and VX gas... once the final decision is taken it will be quick," said a Western officer.

In the last crisis, fear of Iraqi counter-attacks swept Kuwait. Some Western embassies

evacuated dependants, gas masks were rushed in and residents stockpiled basic goods.

Although Iraq has not been given a clear deadline for reversing its decision to halt cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors, military experts said a "window of opportunity" for activating the military option was only a few days away.

They said key factors include the weather pattern over Baghdad and the birth of a new moon in about 10 days.

Other factors include the scheduled rotation at the end of November of the U.S. aircraft carrier group in the region, the annual GCC summit in Abu Dhabi in early December and the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in mid-December.

Iraqi newspapers poured scorn on U.S. threats of military action, saying Iraq would lose nothing if the United States attacked it and vowed that Baghdad would not submit to American "oppression."

"We have clarified our position since we have declared it," Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh said of Baghdad's decision to halt all cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Saleh told reporters he had nothing to say when asked if Annan would travel to Baghdad to resolve the standoff.

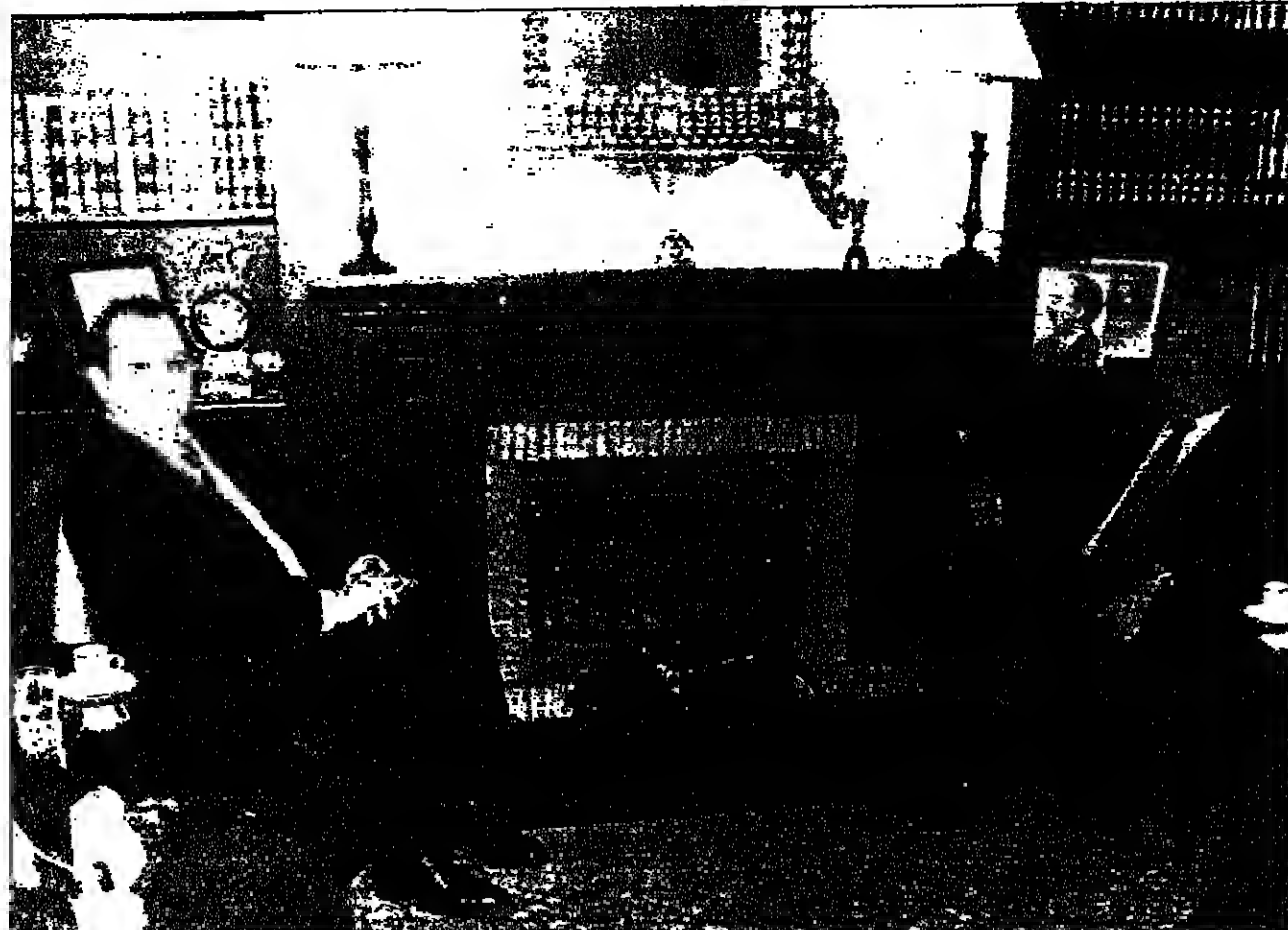
Prakash Shah, the U.N. envoy who is mediating a solution to the crisis with Iraqi officials as entrusted by Annan, said that he discussed with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz a visit to Iraq by the U.N. chief.

"Naturally the subject came in the course of our discussions with Mr. Aziz. But the secretary-general is visiting Western Sahara and as he commented yesterday he has no current plans to visit the region," the Indian diplomat said.

On Sunday, U.S. President Bill Clinton discussed Iraq's refusal to allow U.N. arms inspectors with top security advisers on Sunday, but officials said no decision was made on whether to use military force against President Saddam Hussein for his defiance.

Clinton asked aides to report back to him on both the diplomatic and military options regarding Iraq, leaving all possible responses open. National Security Council spokesman David Leavy told reporters.

(Continued on page 12)



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday holds talks with Israeli Labour Party leader Ehud Barak at the Royal Court (AP photo)

## Regent warns of perils of retreating from peace for political considerations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday emphasised the need for total commitment to building a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East region and serious efforts to attain that goal.

that the peace process should not be held hostage to political considerations.

Barak's visit, his second since July 14, comes one day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indefinitely postponed a cabinet debate on the ratification of the Wye River memorandum following last Friday's bomb attack in Jerusalem.

At yesterday's meeting Barak, who was accompanied by Knesset Labour members Elitan Kabil and Yossi Katz, emphasised his party's commitment to the peace process noting that Labour has supported the Wye Plantation accord at the Knesset.

Barak said 85 per cent of the Israeli public support the accord and that there can be no justification for the Israeli government not to ratify it.

Barak expressed appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's contribution to the success of the accord between the Israelis and the Palestinians which was signed at the White House.

Prince Hassan noted that King Hussein's participation in the Wye Plantation talks sent an important message that the peoples of the Middle East region can no more tolerate further tension and irresponsible acts and that they demand peace based on justice and respect of all parties rights.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Jawad Anani, Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib and Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher.

Information Minister Nasser Judeh told reporters that Barak's visit is part of the continued dialogue between the government of Jordan and the body politic in Israel out of concern for national Arab interests.

Judeh said that Jordan will be exerting all efforts to help the two parties to implement the agreement.

Later Barak left for home via the King Hussein Bridge.

## Tarawneh to visit S. Arabia today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh leaves for Saudi Arabia today for a one-day visit during which he will deliver a written message from His Majesty King Hussein to King Fahd.

Discussions between Tarawneh and Saudi leaders are expected to focus on "regional and bilateral matters" as well as "continued cooperation and coordination in various fields," Information Minister Nasser Judeh told reporters yesterday.

Reuters, quoting unidentified officials, said Tarawneh's talks will focus on the latest crisis in Iraq, adding that the prime minister will discuss the possibility of resuming Saudi oil supplies if an Iraqi confrontation with the West cut Jordan's energy lifeline from Baghdad. Saudi Arabia stopped the flow of oil in 1990 in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Tarawneh, making his first visit to Riyadh since being appointed last August, will convey King Hussein's greetings and appreciation to the Saudi monarch for his inquiry about the King's health.

King Hussein is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the U.S.

Tarawneh will also convey the greetings of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

Prince Abdullah visited King Hussein in the U.S. in September.

Tarawneh will be accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib and Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi.

## Netanyahu to delay West Bank withdrawal despite U.S. pressure

TEL AVIV (AP) — As the first deadline in the Mideast peace accord came and went Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ignored U.S. pressure to stick to the timetable and said he would not go forward until the Palestinians combat activists.

Netanyahu's senior adviser David Bar-Ilan, said Israel will also likely to miss the land-for-security agreement's Nov. 16 withdrawal date, when Israeli troops are to begin a phased pullout from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

"There will be a few days' delay, I presume," Bar-Ilan said. Already, the accord has fallen one week behind schedule. The deal, which is to be implemented over 12 weeks, was to have taken effect one week ago but has been held up by Israel over requests for clarifications

on Palestinian obligations under the deal. After a suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market on Friday, Israel's cabinet suspended indefinitely debate over the agreement until the Palestinians do more to fight Islamist groups.

"We would like to proceed with the agreement as soon as we have assurances that the spate of terrorist bombings have been taken care of by systematic comprehensive action by the Palestinians," Netanyahu said.

But the Palestinians said they are carrying out their commitments and said Israel is using the security issue as a stall tactic.

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said the agreement is "as good as dead" if Israel refuses to carry out the withdrawals on time. "He [Netanyahu] cannot expect to

have implementation of one part of the agreement, our commitments, and postpone the other part," he said.

Meanwhile, Israel and the United States appeared to be at odds over three key issues: the time table, continued Jewish settlement expansion and the procedure for revoking provisions in the PLO founding charter calling for Israel's destruction.

U.S. embassy spokesman Larry Schwartz said that in a phone call last week, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Netanyahu that she expected Israel to implement the agreement on time.

"Our understanding is that the Wye timetable will not slip," Schwartz told The Associated Press. "The timetable is meant to continue as it was signed."

## 'Builders took Lebanese soil'

CAIRO (R) — Israel's ambassador to Cairo said on Monday private Israeli contractors were taking soil from occupied south Lebanon for building purposes and police were investigating.

Asked to comment on remarks from Lebanon and the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) that Israelis had taken fertile soil from Lebanon across the border into Israel, Ambassador Tzvi Mazel said: "No, no, no, we don't take this accusation

from Lebanon. But we discovered yesterday and the day before yesterday that there are private sector contractors who are working with the Lebanese and they take the soil, not fertile or anything, but soil for building purposes.

"But this is under investigation by the Israeli police," he added.

The ambassador was responding to reporters' questions after he delivered a message to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa from his counterpart Ariel Sharon.

Lebanon last week asked the United Nations and European Union to stop Israel from stealing fertile soil.

On Friday, a UNIFIL official said the Israeli army admitted that Israelis had been taking fertile top soil from occupied south Lebanon across the border into Israel's Galilee.

UNIFIL said soil has been removed to a depth of two to three metres in a 100 by 300-metre area south of Marjayoun inside the occupation zone.

## Palestinians try to clear up Arab 'misunderstanding' of Wye River accord

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian officials met with Arab League representatives Monday to clear up what they said were widespread misunderstandings about the latest, Wye River agreement with Israel.

"There has been a lack of information concerning the Wye accord which has led to a misunderstanding. We would like to clear up this misunderstanding," Palestinian International Coopera-

tion Minister Nabil Shaath said after the 75-minute meeting.

The accord did not prevent the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) from declaring an independent state nor commit it to disbanding opposition groups, Shaath insisted.

The accord with the Israelis "does not commit us to not proclaiming a Palestinian state May 4, 1999," he said.

"The security measures are

based on the principle of reciprocity."

"Nothing in the agreement forces us to dissolve Hamas or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [respectively the main Islamic and secular opposition groups] nor to close their cultural institutions which the Israelis consider terrorist infrastructure," he said.

Shaath added that the PNA had yet to receive maps showing the areas from

which Israel will withdraw under the land-for-security agreement.

"This issue was a problem until the last minute at Wye Plantation," the Maryland conference centre where the U.S.-brokered accord was negotiated last month, he said.

"The Israelis refuse to hand over the maps before their cabinet approves them along with the text of the agreement. The Americans are

backing them, saying that this conforms with the interim agreement" signed in September 1995 in Taba, Egypt, Shaath said.

He called on Arab states to exert "maximum pressure on Israel to force it to implement the accord, and especially to refuse to normalise ties by resuming multilateral negotiations or holding regional economic conferences."

"We are still demanding an

Arab summit, not just [to push Israel] to implement the accord but also because we need Arab support in the final-status talks and to proclaim an independent Palestinian state May 4, 1999," Shaath said.

"We need the help of an Arab experts committee especially on [final-status] negotiations over occupied Jerusalem and refugees and also to develop legal bases for the declaration of a Palestinian state."

The Palestinians also need

Arab support to persuade the European Union, Canada and Japan to recognise the Palestinian state which will be proclaimed May 4, 1999 "because they are the only ones who haven't yet lent support to the declaration," he said.

"As for the United States, I don't think they are going to recognise it, but they won't oppose it."

كردنا من اجل



## 'Algerian rebels shell town'

Soldiers kill 38 rebels in 4 days — paper

ALGIERS (R) — Islamist rebels shelled Algeria's main garrison town for about six hours, wounding "several" people with home-made artillery rounds, a local daily said on Monday.

Rebels, entrenched in mountains overlooking Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, where the military has its main headquarters and barracks, bombarded the city, Liberté said.

At least eight shells hit the centre of the city of about 700,000 people, wounding "several" people, it said.

The shelling began Sunday afternoon and continued for about six hours into the night, the newspaper said.

There was no immediate official or independent confirmation of the shelling. Rebels, entrenched in Chrea mountains, bombarded Blida at least six times in 1996 and 1997.

The deadliest such shelling of the city occurred in October 1997, when at least 12 civilians were killed and 85 wounded.

Meanwhile La Quotidien d'Oran daily said soldiers

killed 38 armed Islamists in the past four days in Saïda region, 330 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

A bomb exploded on Sunday at a building site of the state power Sonelgaz utility, killing one worker and wounding another, in Laalam area in Bejaia province, 220 kilometres east of Algiers, said La Nouvelle République newspaper.

Another bomb killed a man and wounded another on Sunday in Chrea district, northwest of Algiers, said Liberté. The two men

thought to be Islamists were carrying the bomb to an unspecified place when the device went off prematurely, it said.

"The blast may suggest that the rebels were preparing a new wave of bombings in Algiers," Liberté said.

Algiers, a city of about 3.5 million people, was experiencing a relative lull in rebel attacks and bombings in the past 10 months after being hit by a series of rebel bombings and other attacks mainly between 1994 and mid-1997.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Turk activist barred from trip abroad

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's top human rights activist was prevented from leaving the country on Monday following his conviction for "inciting hatred" by calling for a negotiated end to the Kurdish conflict. Human Rights Association (IHD) Chairman Akin Birdal told Reuters police stopped him as he was about to fly to Norway for treatment for injuries he received in a gun attack this year. "A ban on foreign travel followed my conviction late last month, but because I was not told, I went to the airport but police stopped me," Birdal said.

#### Lebanese teachers on strike

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's 3,685 public high school teachers launched an open-ended strike Monday to back demands for end-of-service payments based on 100 per cent of their final salaries. The strike shut down 193 high schools across the country, forcing about 65,000 students to remain home. The high school teachers were protesting the government's new salary-scale adopted last month and which granted them end-of-service payments based on 85 per cent of their final wages, similar to public civil servants.

#### Germany presses Turkey over report

BONN (R) — Germany said on Monday that Turkey had not provided any information over the fate of alleged guerrilla Andrea Wolf, who was reported last week by a newspaper to have been killed by Turkish security forces. "We have repeatedly asked the Turkish side to tell us what has happened to Frau Wolf," Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Erdmann told a government news conference. "We have no reliable information... That can only come from the Turkish side," Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper, reported on Friday that Wolf, believed to be a member of the Red Army Faction (RAF) guerrilla group, had been shot after her arrest by Turkish security forces. It said Wolf had apparently fled Germany to a camp of the Kurdish rebel group, the PKK, inside Turkey. The Turkish foreign ministry said it was investigating the issue.

## Palestinian police release two Hamas activists

GAZA (R) — Palestinian police released a senior leader and another activist of the Islamist group Hamas, a Hamas official said on Monday.

"Mahmoud Al Zahhar and Daoud Abu Khaier were released yesterday noon," Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas official, told Reuters.

Zahhar, a spokesman for the movement, was one of dozens of Hamas activists arrested on Oct. 29 following a suicide bombing that barely missed a bus of Jewish settler children in the Gaza Strip, killing a soldier in a jeep.

Israel has held up approval of a U.S.-brokered peace deal with the Palestinians, demanding Palestinian President Yasser Arafat clamp down on Islamists such as Hamas who oppose peace deals with Israel.

Haniyeh said Palestinian police had freed several leading officials of the

movement in recent days. He called on the Palestinian National Authority to free "at least 250 activists" remaining in prison.

"We welcome any step aimed at improving the atmosphere between Hamas and the authority. We hope they release all the people they have arrested who had nothing to do with what happened," he added.

A telephone caller and a leaflet issued in the name of the Izzedine Al Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Hamas political leaders later questioned the authenticity of the leaflet and denied the movement had stood behind the attack.



PFLP DEMONSTRATION IN NABLUS: Palestinian students at Al Najah University carry a coffin Monday bearing U.S. and Israeli flags in a demonstration against the Israeli-Palestinian peace process organised by supporters of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Underneath is written 'The so called Peace Process.' Some 1,000 students took part in the rally (Reuters photo)

## Palestinian official says PNA will declare independent state next year

CAIRO (AP) — A senior Palestinian official said Monday that the Palestinian National Authority will declare statehood next year despite Israeli objections.

"There is no backing off on our commitment to declare independence on May 4, 1999," Nabil Shaath, Palestinian minister of planning and international cooperation, was quoted as saying by Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

"Whether we reach an agreement with the Israelis on May 4 or not... the Palestinian state will be

declared," Shaath said. May 4, 1999 is the day when the two sides must conclude a final land agreement under the 1993 Oslo peace accord between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Shaath's remarks contradict an understanding by Rabin's successor, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reached last month in Wye Plantation with Arafat not to declare an independent Palestinian state before the two sides agree on a final peace formula.

Efforts to work out Oslo were stalled after Rabin was assassinated in 1995 and Palestinian militants attacked Israelis in a series of bloody bombings.

Shaath is in Cairo for a meeting with Arab League officials to brief them on the Wye agreement under which Israel agreed to cede 13 per cent additional land from the West Bank to the PNA in exchange for increased counter-terrorism action by the Palestinians. Israel postponed implementing the agreement after Friday's bombing in

Jerusalem. Shaath said the Palestinians will urge the Arab governments to stop normalisation of ties with Israel until it implements its commitments in the deal.

The Palestinians want the Arabs to refrain from contacts with Israel including in the Middle East economic conferences and the multilateral peace discussions, he said.

The United States has been urging the Arab governments to drop their reservations and warm up relations with the Jewish state.

## Israelis go to polls in municipal elections

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israelis go to the polls Tuesday for municipal elections dominated by local issues, religious squabbles and uneasy alliances between parties more used to combating one another than campaigning together.

A total of 682 candidates are running for mayor and thousands of others for seats on municipal councils in 161 towns and cities across Israel.

Some 3.8 million people are eligible to vote, but analysts expected barely half of them to turn out.

Despite the lack of interest, campaigning in some cities was animated and at times angry, with police receiving nearly 200 complaints of political and even tribal violence linked to the election.

One of the few major changes expected in the polls is in Tel Aviv, where a candidate supported by the opposition Labour Party should end a 25-year reign by the political right over the seaside metropolis.

Ron Huldai, a 54-year-old former

air force officer, secular militant and charismatic high school principal, is far ahead in opinion polls in the race to replace outgoing mayor, Ronnie Milo.

One of the rare moderates in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, Milo announced several weeks ago that he was stepping down with the intention of challenging Netanyahu for the premiership in the next national elections.

The Likud candidate in Tel Aviv, reserve general Doron Rubin, has done so poorly in the polls that Netanyahu withdrew all official support — including financial aid — in mid-campaign.

The prime minister only did an about-face 48 hours before the election by calling Sunday on his supporters to vote for Rubin.

Ultra-orthodox parties and notably the Shas group which champions the cause of Sephardic Jews of North African and Middle Eastern origin, are also expected to

do well in several cities, possibly taking control of the Sea of Galilee resort of Tiberias.

The influence of Shas has skyrocketed in recent years and it is the second biggest party in Netanyahu's coalition. But at the local level, Shas candidates have allied with either Likud or Labour, picking the camp considered the most likely to win.

In a no-holds-barred campaign, the spiritual leader of Shas, the Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, promised in leaflets spread across key cities that voters who back Shas candidates will go to heaven.

In one of the more unusual alliances of the campaign, Shas and the local branch of Labour have both joined forces with the city's incumbent Likud mayor, Ehud Olmert, considered unbeatable.

Olmert, 53, is a fierce champion of Jewish settlement, particularly in occupied Arab east Jerusalem, but moderated his normally combative attacks on the dovish political left

during the municipal campaign so as not to rile his newly found Labour friends.

For the first time since Israel occupied Arab east Jerusalem in 1967, an Arab Israeli, Mussa Elayan, 47, is also running for mayor despite the strong opposition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Local Palestinian leaders called as they have for the past 30 years for the city's Arab residents to boycott the election, viewing participation as an endorsement of Israel's occupation and annexation of Arab east Jerusalem.

A coalition of all Palestinian factions called for a general strike Tuesday in east Jerusalem to protest the election.

In Arab communities inside Israel, campaigning was often marked by violent clan quarrels and in the main Arab city of Nazareth, by a campaign battle between the Christian majority and an increasingly active Islamic movement.

## LEADER CHALLENGE IN SYRIA

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION  
Tel. 473111-19  
PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 French Cartoon  
15:30 Bananas in Pyjamas  
16:00 Life Choices  
16:30 Small Talk  
17:00 The Love of Kalam  
18:00 French Programmes  
— Les Cœurs Brûlés  
19:00 Le Journal  
19:15 French Programme — Fractales  
19:30 News headlines  
19:35 Step by Step  
20:00 What Would You Do?  
20:05 Dr. Drew's Gold  
21:00 You and Your Car  
21:30 UN Cut  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Lonesome Dove  
22:50 Feature film — Little Kid  
01:20 End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr  
05:55 Sunrise/Duha  
07:19 Dhuhur  
08:15 Asr  
08:44 Maghrib  
18:03 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
No. 35, Tel. 5421340  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
4622565

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4634590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
4622366  
Anglican Church Tel.  
4623853/46234811  
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox  
Church Tel. 4771751  
Annaman International Church  
Tel. 5865897  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 5688404  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Annaman Tel. 5811295  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter  
Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la  
Salle College Tel. 5661757  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.  
4646138  
Church of Presentation, Swe-  
fiah Tel. 5920146  
The United Catholic Church  
Tel. 4624757  
The English Language  
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614191  
Evangelical Free Church Tel.  
4892679  
The Baptist Church Tel.  
4620552  
The Armenian Catholic  
Church Tel. 4771331  
The American Orthodox  
Church Tel. 4775261

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be relatively cold, temperatures dropping, and skies cloudy to partly cloudy. Scattered showers are expected in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom with winds westerly to moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly to moderate to active, and seas calm.

Amman 10/20  
Aqaba 17/25  
Deserts 18/21  
Jordan Valley 16/25  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 24, Aqaba 28 Humidity  
readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 57 per cent.  
Following are the temperatures expected today in the following areas:

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Yousef Faghih 4300104  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh 5519221  
Dr. Rabi Sakkar 5556457  
Dr. Mohammad Labadieh 5167914  
AMMAN:  
Firas Pharmacy 5661912  
Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730  
Mayadah Pharmacy 5537004  
Rafik Al Dawa Pharmacy 4636169  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Shugairi 02/7100069  
Fou'ad Pharmacy 02/275301  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Issa Al Omari 09/1901266  
Palestine Pharmacy 09/983562

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111  
Civil Defence Department 5661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192 4621111 4637777  
Fire Brigade 4617101  
Blood Bank 4775121  
Highway Police 5343402  
Traffic Police 4896390  
Public Security Dept. 4630321  
Hotel Complaints 5605800  
Price Complaints 5661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4896467  
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111  
Telephone Information Directory

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199  
The Islamic Abdi 5666131/7  
Hussein Medical Centre 5856856  
Luzatilla 4630195  
Khaldi Maternity 464281/h  
Akileh Maternity 464241/2  
Jabal Annam Maternity 4642362  
Malha, J. Amman 4636140  
Palestine Slimsani 5607071  
Slimsani Hospital 5607431  
Jordan Hospital 5607550  
University Hospital 5353444  
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279  
Al-Ahli, Ahlali 5666164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 477101/3  
Al-Bashir 4775111/2/6  
Anny, Marka 4891611/1/5  
Queen Alia Hospital 5157100  
Amal Hospital 5607155

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199  
The Islamic Abdi 5666131/7  
Hussein Medical Centre 5856856  
Luzatilla 4630195  
Khaldi Maternity 464281/h  
Akileh Maternity 464241/2  
Jabal Annam Maternity 4642362  
Malha, J. Amman 4636140  
Palestine Slimsani 5607071  
Slimsani Hospital 5607431  
Jordan Hospital 5607550  
University Hospital 5353444  
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279  
Al-Ahli, Ahlali 5666164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 477101/3  
Al-Bashir 4775111/2/6  
Anny, Marka 4891611/1/5  
Queen Alia Hospital 5157100  
Amal Hospital 5607155

Al Amal Cancer Centre 5353000

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323  
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986731  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555  
Roman Catholic Hospital 02/272275  
Ibu Al Nafoes Hospital 02/7101372 02/7103101  
Rosary Sisters Hospital 02/7102831 02/7102011  
Specialty Hospital 02/7103100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital 03/2040111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, when it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
05:50 Tehran (RJ)  
07:15 London, New York (RJ)  
07:30 Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
16:20 Cairo (RJ)  
17:30 London, Frankfurt (RJ)  
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)  
23:10 Beirut (RJ)

Other Flights  
12:30 Aden (TY)  
14:35 Istanbul (TK)  
18:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
18:40 Beirut (ME)  
18:45 Kiev (6U)  
19:05 Paris (AF)  
20:25 Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:40 Cairo (MS)  
22:25 London, Damascus (BA)  
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)  
23:55 Larnaca (CY)  
00:55 Bucharest (RO)  
02:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:30 Aqaba arriving at QAIA (RW)  
11:10 Aqaba arriving at Marka Airport (RW)  
16:00 Aqaba arriving at Marka

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
09:00 Aqaba, Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)  
10:50 Berlin, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 Paris (RJ)  
12:15 London (RJ)  
12:30 Cairo (RJ)  
19:35 Beirut (RJ)  
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
20:45 Damascus (RJ)  
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights  
07:10 Frankfurt (LH)  
13:30 Aden (TY)  
15:35 Istanbul (TK)  
19:00 Dubai (EK)  
19:40 Kiev (6U)  
20:00 Cairo (ME)  
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)  
21:40 Cairo (MS)  
00:35 Amsterdam (KL)  
01:55 Bucharest (RO)  
03:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

### WHAT

### FILM

"The English Patient" at the Books & Cinema, First Circle at 8:30 p.m.

### LECTURE

"Sufism" in Arabic by Imad Mujahed at the Technology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (7)

### EXHIBITIONS

Networks of the Spanish Contemporary and Presentation of Architecture



## 'World Bank supports Jordan's efforts to realise higher growth rates'

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior World Bank official Monday said the institution supports the government's efforts to create an appropriate climate to attain higher and sustainable economic growth rates.

Kamal Darwish, executive director of the World Bank's Near East and North Africa Department, made the statement at a meeting with Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh to review cooperation between the Kingdom and the bank.

Tarawneh said the government is seeking to attain higher economic growth rates to create more opportunities for Jordanian job seekers.

The government is keen on pursuing an economic reform programme and giving the private sector more chances to contribute to the development process through investment, the premier said.

Tarawneh thanked the World Bank for contributing to Jordan's economic reform by financing projects connected with restructuring the country's economic sectors and programmes for further social production.

Darwish said the World Bank appreciates the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, towards the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, which he said would reflect very positively on the development process in the region's countries in general and Jordan in particular.

Darwish said meetings between officials from Jordan and the World Bank enhance coordination and promote closer cooperation.

Present at the meeting with Darwish and his accompanying delegation were the ministers of social development, industry and trade, planning and finance as well as the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan.



PRINCE ABDULLAH, PRINCESS RANIA OPEN EXPO: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania on Monday inspect a display at the opening of the Middle East Technology Show, METS 98, which was organised by the Jordan Computer Society. Around 50 Jordanian computer companies are taking part in the show (Petra photo)

## Nine water officials accused of negligence go on trial today

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Criminal Court today will start hearing the case of nine government officials accused of negligence in connection with this summer's water pollution crisis.

The nine Water Authority officials will be tried on charges ranging from misdemeanours to criminal offences.

The defendants are Water Authority Secretary General Munther Khleifat, his technical assistant, Samir Hejazin, the head of the authority's central laboratories, Hassan Amr, Zai plant Director Mohammad Abu Taba, the head of water treatment and operations at the plant, Riyad Muhsen, plant maintenance department chief Muntaser Hikmat, the head of the authority's quality control department, Ahmad Oleimat, the director of the Zai plant's shifts department, Fateh Radwan, and Salt Lab health expert Mohammad Ghanaeim.

In July, residents of western Amman complained of foul-smelling and discoloured water supplied mostly by the Zai plant, and domestic supplies of water were halted for over seven weeks.

The crisis led to the resignation of then-Water Minister Munther Haddadin.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, several reasons were to blame for the water crisis, including failure to hire a specialised microbiological technician, inappropriate job placement, lack of advanced laboratories able to detect pollution sources, and negligence in maintaining the plant's filtering system.

Meanwhile, the Amman prosecutor has refused to grant bail to National Aid Fund Director General Adel Shamelieh, who was detained on Sunday, judicial sources said.

Shamelieh was ordered detained by the prosecutor for 15 days pending further investigations into alleged financial and administrative violations, the source said.

The Cabinet on Saturday decided to suspend Shamelieh from his work until the inquiry is completed.

Amman Prosecutor Nayef Samarat, who is handling the investigation, has asked the Ministry of Information to issue a memorandum to all newspapers asking them not to report on the case, the source said.

Plans have been made to offer needy families sufficient capital to start income-generating projects rather than simply cash payments, the minister said.

Abdullah Khatib, executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies, said the union is financing 13 charitable projects in Aqaba, Irbid, Zarqa, Maan, Shobak, Amman, and Karak.

Khatib announced a JD1,000 contribution by the union to be distributed to the 45 women involved in the Maan project to encourage their work.

He also announced that the union will buy JD500 worth of rugs produced by the society.

## Water sports, fireworks planned in Aqaba to mark King's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism is organising three days of water sports events in Aqaba starting Friday as part of Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, according to an official announcement Monday.

A ministry statement said the events, organised in cooperation with Aqaba-based organisations as well as the Aqua Marina Hotel, will include performances by Jordanian and American water skiing teams and fireworks at night.

Taking part in and attending the events, to be held under the patronage of Minister of Tourism Akel Biltaji, are official and public organisations as well as Arab diplomatic missions.

Meanwhile, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamsar inaugurated a project in Maan for the production of traditional rugs which is being carried out by the Princess Rahmah Bint Al Hassan Society. Mamsar said the inauguration was part of the country's celebrations marking the King's birthday, which falls on Nov. 14.

The JD10,000 project was financed by the ministry's Development and Employment Fund.

In an address at the ceremony, Mamsar said the ministry will continue to support community-based services and projects.

He noted that over the past 10 years, a total of JD500 million have been spent on charitable work in Jordan by

voluntary groups and local and foreign donors.

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## No date set for King's return, reports 'inaccurate' — minister

### 'Parliament may convene on December 1'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The date of His Majesty King Hussein's return to Jordan will be only decided by doctors overseeing his chemotherapy treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the U.S., Information Minister Nasser Judeh said Monday.

Judeh said reports carried recently in the local press about the King's return were "inaccurate."

"Either King Hussein or an official designated by him will announce the date of his return," Judeh told correspondents at a weekly press briefing.

Local newspapers quoted several officials this week as saying that the King was

expected to return at the end of this month and address Parliament in his Speech from the Throne on Nov. 30.

Judeh also said Parliament would probably convene on Dec. 1. The Constitution sets Oct. 1 as the opening date of an ordinary session, but the King has the power to postpone the convening of Parliament for up to two months.

Asked if there were plans to hold a Jordanian-Egyptian-Syrian summit in Cairo soon, Judeh said that the Kingdom maintains continuous contacts with the two countries and that no meeting had been scheduled.

During a recent visit to Jordan, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa reportedly offered Egyptian diplomacy to defuse tensions between Jordan and Syria and improve "the general Arab atmosphere."

Following a visit to Egypt by Syrian President Hafez Assad on Oct. 31 to discuss the Middle East peace process, Egyptian President Mubarak told journalists that "Egypt is talking to Syria and Jordan as brothers, and [Egypt] hopes that their differences can be reconciled. Their differences are few and the two countries are solving their problems among themselves."

On the Iraqi front, the minister said Jordan is "worried" about the recent developments following Baghdad's decision to halt cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors. He stressed the importance of reaching a solution to implement U.N. resolutions that would allow the sanctions on Iraq to be lifted and added that he hoped dialogue would continue between Iraq and the U.N.

On the Wye River accord, Judeh said that Jordan is looking forward to seeing the implementation of the deal on the ground and that the Kingdom will not spare any efforts in helping end the deadlocked Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

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## U.S. commerce secretary arrives tomorrow

### Agenda of talks expected to include 'obstacles' to trade with Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Daley arrives in Amman tomorrow for talks with senior officials largely expected to centre on Jordan's frustration with obstacles to bilateral trade with the Palestinian self-rule territories that many believe are imposed by Israel to consolidate control over that market.

A senior official at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said the agenda of the discussions would not be finalised until later today but added that "the issue of bilateral trade, both with the Palestinians and Israel, will be a priority because the Americans are playing a role in making the region both peaceful and economically sound."

Informed sources said that during his three-day visit, Daley is expected to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Minister of Trade Mohammad Saleh Hourani, and members of the newly established Jordanian-American Businessmen's Association. The sources also said the idea of a tri- or quadri-lateral meeting with Israeli and Palestinian officials is being considered but could not yet be confirmed.

Daley's visit follows meetings two weeks ago between Jordanian officials and U.S. economic counselors from the American embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv and the consulate in Jerusalem. During the

meeting, Jordan complained that the volume of trade with the Palestinian territories did not reflect the potential that exists and said trade has been impeded by a "lack of transparency" in Israel's stringent security checks, procedures and standards that are lengthy and expensive and a limited list of goods that can be exported into the territories from Jordan.

An economic agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, known as the Paris Accord of 1994, listed quotas and products that the Palestinians are able to import from countries other than Israel, thus limiting Jordan's potential to export to the West Bank. The accord stipulated that Israel

was to review the lists of products and quotas when self-rule extended to the West Bank, and although Israel doubled the quota on most goods in 1996, it has failed to expand the list of goods. Jordan is asking that an additional 88 goods be added to the list.

A World Bank report issued in September said that in light of crippling economic sanctions against Iraq, Jordan's largest trading partner, the only solution for revitalising the Jordanian economy is the opening of the Palestinian market to Jordanian exports.

Jordan also expressed concern about Israel's failure to encourage its traders to traffic goods originating from the Far East through the port

of Aqaba.

An official at the Ministry of Trade and Industry said Jordan may also raise the issue of a "difference of opinion" between Jordan and Israel over the Qualifying Industrial Zone that has hampered its activity. Jordan is seeking to keep the required Israeli input into any project at the zone at eight per cent on a permanent basis rather than the two years agreed upon during a visit by Israeli Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky last August. The percentage was lowered from 11.7 per cent to eight per cent after investors complained that the original level pushed the cost of production too high, thus discouraging Jordanian investment at the QIZ.

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UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT RECEIVES ACADEMIC DELEGATION: The president of the University of Jordan, Waleed Maani, Monday receives an American academic delegation for discussions on enhancing cooperation between Jordanian and American universities in academic and scientific fields. The delegation also visited the Language Centre, where they were briefed by its director, Ahmad Majdoubeh, on the services extended to students (University of Jordan photo)

## 'JD1.5 million spent on upgrading southern Amman area water networks over last 21 months'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government spent around JD1.5 million between the beginning of 1997 and September of this year to maintain and replace southern Amman's water networks, an official said Monday.

The director of the Water Authority's Amman Water Management Department, Ali Qudah, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that during this period, a total of 63,000 metres of water pipes were replaced and 66,000 metres of new pipes were installed in several areas of southern Amman, including Bneiati, Hatmyeh, Jeweideh, Yadoudeh, Zohour, Keirbet Souq and Jawa. Similar works, Qudah added, will be carried out soon in Na'our, Sahab and other suburbs.

Qudah also said that in order to solve water shortages and find new resources, the production capacity of Qastal, Qatranah and Swaqah wells, which serve southern Amman, will be increased and that several artesian wells will be drilled in Shawabkeh, Yadoudeh and other sites.

A Water Authority report last year estimated that fresh water resources will be fully utilised by the year 2005.

Official figures suggest that by 2000, Jordan's population, growing at around 3.5 per cent per year, will require 1.257 million cubic metres of water to cover minimum needs, while resources will be capable of supplying only 960 million cubic metres.

Jordan relies mainly on rainwater, tapped from surface water sources such as rivers and renewable

groundwater sources, to meet domestic, agricultural and industrial needs.

On signing the 1994 peace treaty with Israel, Jordan was guaranteed an additional 215 million cubic metres of water a year through new dams, a purification plant and diversion projects.

Under the agreement, Jordan is currently storing winter water in Israel's Lake Tiberias, which it later reclaims in the summer, but of the total 215 million cubic metres promised, Jordan is currently receiving only about 60 million cubic metres.

According to Qudah, several studies are being conducted on the qualifications of water pumping stations serving southern Amman in order to evaluate their ability to provide high-quality water to residents.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### German president arrives Nov. 17

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court announced Monday that German President Roman Herzog will pay a state visit to Jordan starting Nov. 17 at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. The statement said the visit will further enhance the ties of friendship and close cooperation between Jordan and Germany. It added that during the Nov. 17-19 stay in the Kingdom, President and Mrs. Herzog will be the guests of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Princess Sarvath.

### Dialogue meeting opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting to promote Islamic-Christian dialogue starts today under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. The meeting is sponsored by Al al Bayt Foundation in cooperation with the Orthodox Centre in Switzerland. The meeting will end on Thursday.

### Deputies meet with U.S. envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the Lower House of Parliament's Arab and International Affairs Committee Monday held talks with U.S. Ambassador to Jordan William Burns on bilateral relations, particularly in parliamentary and economic fields. They also discussed the peace process in the Middle East and the American role in revitalising it as well as other issues of common concern.

### American ambassador visits NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — American Ambassador to Jordan William Burns and his spouse Monday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), where they were briefed by Executive Director Sima Bahous and senior staff on the role of the foundation in the development process in Jordan. An NHF statement said. Bahous stressed the role that NGOs are playing in the socio-economic process in Jordan and the importance of forging strong partnerships between the government, NGOs, donors and communities to achieve sustainable development. In this context, she highlighted the NHF's readiness to participate in the U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Microfinance Program, which is part of the government's Social Productivity Programme.

### Tobacco company reopens

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company Monday began operations again after it was shut down earlier this year due to financial problems, according to Miftah Akel, president of a committee in charge of managing the company. Akel thanked Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and the ministers of trade and industry and finance for their roles in helping the company reopen.

### Plan to sell company shares commended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The director general of the Jordan Cement Factories Company, Taleh Rifai, Monday said the company's management and workers appreciate a recent government decision to sell part of its shares in the company to its employees. Rifai said the decision will deepen workers' loyalty to the company and help increase their productivity. Plans are under way to sell the workers' stake in part of the company's shares at a nominal price, he added. Last month, the government announced that it would allocate some of its shares in the company to its employees at a discount and sell other shares to the public. The government also said the French Lafarge company agreed to buy 33 per cent of the government's shares in the cement company in a deal worth JD72 million.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* "The English Patient" at the Books @ Café, Jabel Amman, First Circle at 8:30 p.m. (Tel. 4650457)

### LECTURE

\* "Astrology" (in Arabic) by Imad Mujahed at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Telephone 5930682). (The lecture discusses the moon's impact on our everyday life and other relevant issues).

### EXHIBITIONS

\* "Masterworks of the Spanish Contemporary Architecture and Presentation of Architecture Guide."

Spain 1920 - 2000" at the University of Jordan, Faculty of Engineering, until Nov. 20.

\* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Aziz at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Amman, until Nov. 28.

\* A three-dimensional exhibition on canvas by Susanna Caldwell, Darleen Karpowicz, and Rawabi Abu Ghazaleh Slawi at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre (Arisana), Jabel Amman, off the second circle, until Nov. 10 (Telephone 4647858).

\* Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfia Al Sa'di, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nuseibah entitled "The Furthest Mosque" at Darat Al Fann, Jabel Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2).

الدولة 1250



## N. Korea calls U.S. demand to inspect suspected nuclear facility an insult

SEOUL (AFP) — Stalinist North Korea Monday called U.S. demands to inspect an underground facility suspected to be a secret nuclear weapons plant an insult and "interference in its internal affairs."

Pyongyang "will not tolerate any interventionist moves which infringe upon our sovereignty but resolutely reject such a hridandish demand as house search," North Korea's foreign ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the country's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"Their insistence on inspection of our underground facility means to search all our internal things, which is an insult to the DPRK (North Korea) that has sincerely implemented the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and a wanton interference in our internal affairs."

The outbreak came one week before a scheduled trip by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman to the Communist state.

North Korea said the United States, however, could inspect the facilities under its terms and if it agreed to pay compensation should no nuclear link be found.

"We have repeatedly told the U.S. side that the object about which the U.S. side threw doubts is a civilian underground facility," the spokesman said.

"Generously enough, we went so far as to say that if they persist in inspecting

the underground facility, we could show it. But we have made it clear that if it proved not to be a nuclear facility, the U.S. side should compensate for violating us and impairing our prestige."

"If the U.S. side is willing to inspect the object at any cost, therefore, it may make proper compensation and inspect the object as we demand."

North Korea has repeatedly denied that it is building an underground nuclear facility, arguing the structure is for civilian use. The United States late last month said its delegation led by Kartman would seek inspection of the underground complex as it suspected the facility was being used for nuclear production.

Washington said "verbal assurances" were not enough and that it would "press for concrete actions" amid warnings that any nuclear weapons production would be a violation of a 1994 agreement.

Under the Geneva accord between Washington and Pyongyang, North Korea agreed to freeze its suspected nuclear programme in exchange for improved U.S. relations with Pyongyang and the construction of two light-water reactors to be placed under international supervision.

Kartman will be the highest level U.S. official to travel to the reclusive state since his predecessor, Thomas Hubbard, held talks there in December 1994 to secure the release

of U.S. airman Bohhy Hall whose helicopter was downed near the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea.

North Korea's spokesman Monday also reiterated its position that if the United States wanted to "break the agreed framework over the issue of confirming an underground facility, it may as well do so."

"Although we have sincerely implemented the agreed framework, a serious imbalance was created in implementing the framework owing to the insincere stance and attitude of the U.S. side," the spokesman said.

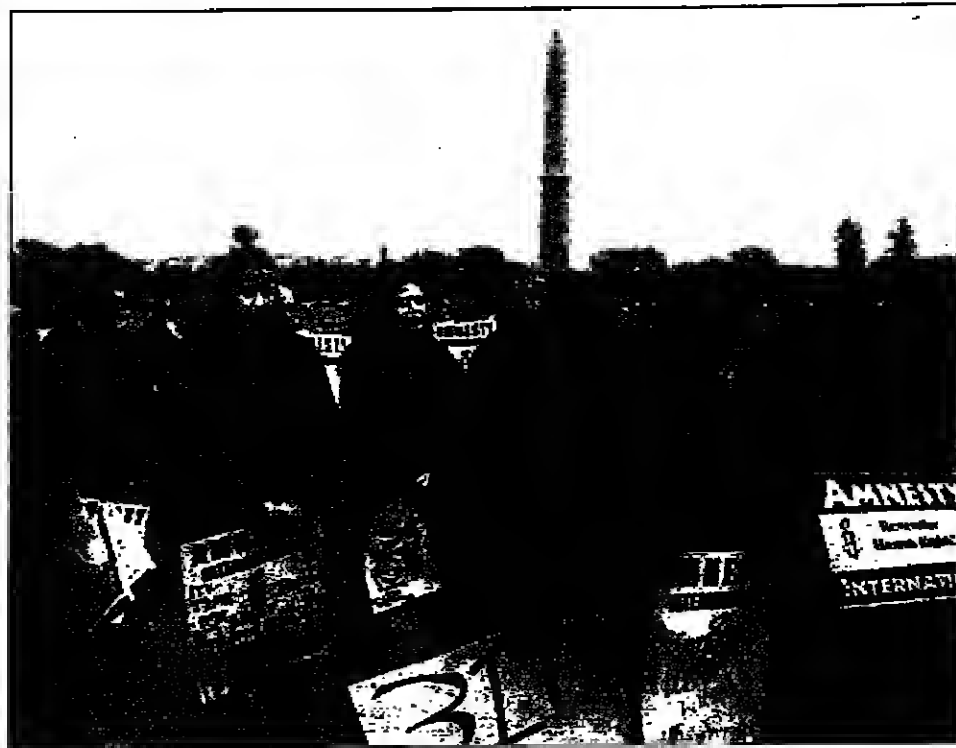
"Moreover, we have got no great benefit from the framework."

Reports of the underground complex surfaced earlier this year in the United States, angering Congress which has threatened to cut funding for the nuclear agreement.

South Korean opposition lawmaker Kim Duk-Ryong last month also said North Korea was building two underground facilities to produce plutonium.

Kim, a member of the Grand National Party, said the two facilities were located in Taechon and Kunchang in North Pyongang Province, and the second one would be fully operational in four-to-six years.

He said North Korea would be able to make "sufficient plutonium to make eight to 10 nuclear weapons every year after that."



Marchers bow their heads during a moment of silence outside the White House in Washington, D.C., at a rally where the participants called for the extradition of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet (AFP photo)

## British House of Lords resumes Pinochet hearing

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's House of Lords Monday resumed a hearing into the fate of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, as British authorities awaited a formal request from Spain for his extradition.

Five top judges from Britain's highest court of appeal are expected to prolong the case until mid-week, and may either make a summary judgment or delay a ruling for up to two weeks.

They are considering an appeal by the Crown Prosecution Service, on behalf of the Spanish authorities, against the British High Court's Oct. 28 ruling that Pinochet's arrest was unlawful because he enjoys sovereign immunity.

If the Law Lords uphold the ruling, Pinochet could be free to fly home to Chile. Should they overturn it,

Pinochet faces a potentially lengthy legal battle to resist a formal extradition request which is expected to be delivered to Home Secretary Jack Straw Tuesday.

Pinochet was arrested on Oct. 16 at the request of Spanish judges who want him extradited and tried for the deaths of Spaniards during Pinochet's ironfisted rule from 1973 to 1990, when thousands were tortured and killed for their political views.

Friday, the Spanish cabinet approved a request for Pinochet to be extradited from Britain.

The 82-year-old general, awaiting the outcome at a private clinic in north London where he is recuperating from back surgery, issued a weekend statement insisting that the Chilean nation did not want to see him put on trial.

He said: "A show trial in a foreign land is not justice."

It is certainly not British justice."

His fellow citizens, who had come to terms with "our nation's past", were his true judges, he said.

"That is why I shall fight this extradition request with all my spirit, supported by the president and government of my country. And, God willing, I shall return home to Chile with my family where I hope to live the last years of my life in peace."

The five Law Lords will hear further representations from international law expert Ian Brownlie on behalf of human rights organisations including Amnesty International, and victims of Pinochet's regime.

Meanwhile Monday, British opposition Conservative leader William Hague was meeting Chilean, right-wing, pro-Pinochet MPs for talks in central London.

## Yeltsin avoids Kremlin amid row with Communists

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin, who abruptly ended a nine-day Black Sea vacation and flew to Moscow amid an escalating row with the Communists, stayed away from his Kremlin office Monday.

Yeltsin, 67, who returned to the capital Sunday evening despite being scheduled to remain in Sochi recovering from fatigue until later in the week, was spending Monday at his Rus suburban Moscow estate, the Kremlin press office said.

Yeltsin, whose health was reported as "normal" by the Kremlin, is due to host a one-day summit with Japanese Prime Minister Keiko Obuchi Thursday.

The Kremlin hinted Sunday that Yeltsin's early return was linked to a war of words with the Communist Party that followed a string of anti-Semitic remarks made by nationalist deputy Albert Makashov.

"We will fight all attempts to cast aspersions on national sentiment, to limit the rights of citizens due to

their nationality," Yeltsin said in a statement Sunday.

Makashov's remarks, and the Communists' later refusal to censure them in parliament, prompted a string of business leaders and liberal politicians to call for the party to be banned.

But Communist parliament speaker Gennady Seleznyov denounced such demands as "hysterical."

Several leading television commentators have also blasted party officials, who in response have charged the networks were "raping public consciousness."

## Judge urged settlement in Jones case 5 months before dismissal

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — Five months before throwing out the case, the judge in Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit urged both sides to settle out of court and avoid a sensational trial, documents released Monday show.

The day before placing a secrecy order in the case, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright also told lawyers she would not tolerate a parade of witnesses about President Bill Clinton's or Jones' sex lives.

"Court advises that parties should attempt to settle this matter and instructs that it will not allow parties to bring numerous witnesses to trial testifying about sexual activity of both sides and will limit the number of

witnesses and time to be spent on this issue," according to the transcript of an Oct. 29, 1997, conference call.

Wright imposed a gag order on the lawyers on Oct. 30, 1997. The judge dismissed Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit April 1, and last month began releasing previously secret records.

In the Oct. 29 conference call, Wright noted that a preliminary list of witnesses Jones' lawyers planned to depose included Gennifer Flowers, who claims of a long-term relationship with Clinton imperilled his run for the presidency in 1992, and Betty Wright, the colourful and bombastic former chief of staff to Clinton

when he was Arkansas governor.

Monica Lewinsky, the former White House volunteer whose affair with Clinton led to an impending presidential impeachment inquiry, had not been identified as a witness at that time.

Jones alleges that Clinton propositioned her in a Little Rock hotel room in May 1991 when he was governor and she was a state employee. Clinton denied the allegation and has said he doesn't recall ever meeting Mrs. Jones.

In dismissing the case, Judge Wright said regardless to what happened in the hotel room, Jones couldn't prove that she was denied job advancements as a result.

## Newly released JFK documents raise questions about medical evidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest batch of John F. Kennedy assassination documents raises new questions about an examination of the president's brain and lays out unresolved discrepancies in other medical evidence.

The more than 400,000 pages of records being made public at the National Archives Monday were compiled in the past four years by the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent panel that Congress set up to collect and release material related to Kennedy's death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Congress did not direct the review board to reinvestigate the assassination, and the panel issued no formal opinions on any aspect of the controversial murder. But in the board's effort to expand and clarify the record, details surfaced that suggest two different brain exams may have been conducted at the Bethesda, Maryland, Naval Medical Centre, raising questions

about the authenticity of the brain examined; there was failure to resolve discrepancies between how physicians at Parkland Hospital in Dallas described Kennedy's head injury immediately following the shooting and how it was subsequently described by pathologists at Bethesda.

Although the Warren Commission concluded that Kennedy was shot from behind by a single gunman, how Kennedy was assassinated and from what direction he was shot have nonetheless been hotly debated for 35 years. The review board studied old testimony and medical evidence and reinterviewed witnesses, but still was unable to resolve certain issues.

"There are questions about the supplemental brain exam and the photos that were taken. There are inconsistencies in the testimony of the autopsy doctors about when that exam took place," said Jeremy Gunn, executive director

and general counsel of the board, which closed out its work in September.

"These are serious issues. The records are now out there for the public to evaluate." Three military pathologists agree they conducted an autopsy of Kennedy's entire body at Bethesda immediately after it was flown back from Dallas. But the doctors offer conflicting recollections about the timing of a subsequent brain exam.

Two doctors, J. Thornton Boswell and James Humes, told the review board that the brain exam occurred two or three days after Kennedy's death. Initially, Humes told the Warren Commission that he, Boswell and a third pathologist, Dr. Pierre Finck, were present when the brain was examined. But when he testified to the review board in 1996, Humes did not list Finck among those present. Boswell maintains Finck was not there.

On the other hand, Finck

says the brain exam did not occur until much later. In a memo he wrote to his commanding officer 14 months after Kennedy was assassinated, Finck said Humes did not call him until Nov. 29, 1963 — seven days after Kennedy's death — to say it was time to examine the brain. In the memo, Finck said all three pathologists examined the brain together and that "colour and black-and-white photographs are taken by the U.S. Navy photographer."

The conflicting testimony caused Douglas Horne, chief analyst for military records, to conclude in a 32-page memo that two separate brain exams may have been conducted, "contrary to the official record as it has been presented to the American people."

"If true, Dr. Finck's account of a brain exam separate and distinct from the first one would mean that Drs. Humes and Boswell were present at two different brain exams," he writes.

Humes was ill and could not be interviewed. In a telephone interview, Boswell reiterated that the brain was examined at the initial autopsy of the body and only once more at a separate brain exam a few days later.

"I doubt very much that we would have called him (Finck) back over for that," Boswell said.

Boswell added that the only photos of the brain were taken at the autopsy.

This conflicts with testimony the board obtained from Navy photographer John Stringer, who said he took pictures of the brain two or three days after the autopsy. Stringer also testified that official photos of the brain preserved at the archives do not match those he remembers taking. He cites discrepancies in the angles from which they were shot and the type of film used.

In addition, former FBI Agent Francis O'Neill Jr., who watched doctors remove Kennedy's brain

the night he died, told the review board that the archives' photos do not resemble what he saw. "I did not recall it (the brain) being that large," O'Neill said.

Throughout the years, doctors who treated Kennedy in Dallas said his head wound was about the size of a large egg at the back of the head, behind his right ear. The Dallas doctors told reporters then that they believed Kennedy was shot from the front — a belief that conflicted with the Warren Commission's later conclusion of a single shooter firing from behind.

Humes, chief pathologist for the autopsy at Bethesda, agreed there was a wound to the right rear of Kennedy's head, but he told the board that it was a small entry wound, not an egg-sized exit wound. In contrast to observations in Dallas, Humes said there also was massive damage to the top of Kennedy's skull and right side forward of the ear.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Queen Elizabeth should reign on and on, Camilla tolerated

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II remains a popular monarch while Prince Charles' efforts to win back Britons' affection have also paid off, according to a recent poll which indicates a warming towards his mistress Camilla Parker-Bowles. Sixty-seven per cent said Elizabeth, 72, should be queen for the rest of her life and 73 per cent reaffirmed their support for the British monarchy, even if only one in five believe it will survive more than a century, the poll for the Daily Mail newspaper showed. There was also strong support for Charles becoming king in the future, with 63 per cent who think he will make a good monarch, and only 34 per cent who think he should step aside in favour of his eldest son William. The poll results are comforting for the Prince of Wales, who has been engaged in a sustained media campaign to improve his public image since the death of his ex-wife Diana, Princess of Wales, in August last year. Forty-five per cent of those surveyed said that he should marry his long-time companion Camilla Parker-Bowles, even if 77 per cent oppose her reigning as queen by his side. The poll follows furious controversy in the British media over Charles' aspirations to the monarchy and his relationship with Elizabeth II. It was fuelled by an angry denial last week by Charles of claims made in an LWT television documentary that he would be secretly delighted if his mother abdicated.

### Bosnian Croat's warcrimes trial resumes

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The trial of Bosnian Croat warcrimes suspect Anto Furundzija resumed here Monday after an adjournment of several months. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia put off sentencing Furundzija in July after judges ruled the prosecution had failed to disclose vital information to defence lawyers. The defence argued it had not been shown documents relating to the mental health of a key witness. The woman, a rape victim known as witness A, had suffered psychiatric problems, raising questions about the reliability of her testimony. The judges "felt that the prosecution did not fulfil their mandate on disclosure" and had "prejudiced the accused's rights," a statement from the tribunal said in July. Furundzija, 29, commanded a Bosnian Croat paramilitary force, known as the "Jokers", in the Vitez region of central Bosnia during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war. He is accused of letting a subordinate torture a Bosnian Croat and rape a Bosnian Muslim woman during interrogation at military headquarters in Vitez. Furundzija was arrested in Vitez in December by peacekeeping troops.

### Thalidomide doctor reinstated

SYDNEY (R) — Australian doctor William McBride, who first linked the drug Thalidomide with birth deformities but who was deregistered for scientific fraud five years ago, was Monday reinstated on the medical register. McBride, 71, was struck off in 1993 when he was found guilty of falsifying data and being wrongly described his experimental methods in an article on the effects of pre-natal drug. Debenbox. In early 1980, McBride said Debenbox, like Thalidomide in the 1960s, was "capable of causing deformities in a small percentage of the embryos of women who took it early in pregnancy". Debenbox, a remedy for morning sickness, was withdrawn globally soon after McBride's claim. McBride said in his autobiography that he was unrepentant for falsifying records on his Debenbox experiments on rabbits, saying he had prevented children being born with deformities. McBride unsuccessfully applied for reinstatement in 1995, but was found to be "not of good character" by a New South Wales state Court of Appeal. But Monday, McBride again applied for reinstatement and told the New South Wales Medical Tribunal he was sorry and realised his actions involving Debenbox were wrong despite his good intentions. The medical board ruled that McBride had reformed and that he was now a fit and proper person to practise medicine. McBride's re-registration is on condition that he not undertake medical research, that he be supervised for such period as determined by the medical board and not perform surgery until he has satisfied the board of his competence. Speaking after the decision, a teary-eyed and smiling McBride told reporters he was "very happy to get back to medicine" and wanted to work at the only hospital in American Samoa.

### Christian Democrat wins key Romanian poll

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Christian Democrat Viorel Lis was named Bucharest mayor Monday, after elections seen as a key test of the Romanian government's popularity. Lis, interim mayor in the run-up to polling, won 50.5 per cent of the vote in Sunday's run-off election, official results showed Monday. He narrowly beat Sorin Oprea, of the country's main opposition Party of Social Democracy of Romania (PSDR), who polled 49.5 per cent. The ballot was seen as a test of the popularity of the Democratic Convention, the loose coalition of centre-right parties which won the 1996 general election. Fresh legislative and presidential polls are due in 2000. Lis' party dominates the ruling coalition. However, the Bucharest poll was marred by voter apathy. Only 36 per cent of the city's 1.6 million voters turned out Sunday. A similar figure was recorded after first-round polling a week earlier. The former mayor, Christian Democrat Victor Cioba, who was also Prime Minister, resigned both positions in March after he was widely blamed for the country's economic woes.

### Painter Francisco Sainz dies at 75

EAST HAMPTON, New York (AP) — Francisco Sainz, an Abstract Expressionist painter whose work often included figures dressed in the garb of his native Spain, has died. He was 75. Sainz, who was known as Paco, died in East Hampton on Oct. 20 after suffering a heart attack, his family said. The painter, who fought in the Spanish Civil War as a teenager, moved to New York after World War II. He socialised with New York School painters including Willem de Kooning, Lester Johnson and Alfred Leslie. He often painted isolated figures in Spanish dress against colourful landscapes. His work sometimes recalled 19th century photography and folk painting. Sainz also produced portraits of historical figures such as George Washington, Francisco Franco and Grandma Moses. He often organised and acted in plays in East Hampton, where he was also known for playing the harmonica and reciting his own poetry. He is survived by a brother, a daughter, a son and four grandchildren.

دولت اسلامی





Hundred of Indonesian students wave flags from atop buses as security forces block them from getting close to the parliament building during a demonstration on the eve of the much contested special session of the country's highest legislative body. Thousands of students protested in the capital to demand a fair first general assembly since the fall of ex-President Suharto (AFP photo)

## Students demonstrations across Indonesian against assembly

JAKARTA (AFP) — Student demonstrations broke out in at least six Indonesian cities Monday, the eve of a special session of the country's highest legislature to set a date for elections, reports and witnesses said.

In Jakarta, students rallying against the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) which opens Tuesday, gathered around the city before converging towards the national parliament building.

But their advances were barred by security forces on a main avenue leading to the parliament, one kilometre ahead of the gates of the legislative complex.

By late afternoon up to 1,500 protesters, some inside and on the roofs of at least 20 buses blocked a

road leading to parliament, which was held up by a cordon of 30 police, backed by around 200 armed soldiers, an AFP reporter said.

Students oppose the special MPR session. They say the military should be thrown out of parliament, that ex-president Suharto should stand trial and his successor B.J. Habibie should surrender power to a transitional authority.

One student was seriously injured after police and soldiers beat back demonstrators protesting against Habibie as head of state, at the Supreme Court building, near the presidential palace.

Ten trucks carrying vigilantes — civilian volunteers deployed by the military to help assure security — pelted a private universi-

ty known to harbour student activists opposing the assembly session.

In Padang, West Sumatra, some 2,000 students from various universities marched to the governor's office where they presented officials with a petition including a demand that the military's compulsory presence in parliament is ended.

The protest was peaceful and the demonstrators disbanded afterwards.

In Surabaya, the main city of East Java province, thousands of students marched to the governor's office to demand that Suharto stand trial for past political and economic crimes, the Suara Pembaruan evening daily said.

In Semarang, capital of Central Java province, hun-

dreds of students protested at the governor's office, demanding an end to the military's political role, the daily said.

At least two protests, each involving hundreds of students, were also held in Yogyakarta, central Java, the daily said, adding that they voiced the same demands as the Semarang students.

A similar demonstration by some 200 students also took place in front of provincial parliament in Bandung, the main town of West Java.

Students have vowed to hold daily protest to oppose the MPR special session. The military said they were deploying some 30,000 soldiers and police to safeguard the session, including over 16,000 in Jakarta.

## India, Pakistan make no headway on sea boundary

NEW DELHI (R) — India and Pakistan made no headway Monday in talks on a sea boundary dispute, one of the most complex of a raft of issues dividing the two arch-rivals.

In a terse joint statement after a 3-hour meeting in New Delhi on the Sir Creek channel, the two countries said they had left the issue to a subsequent round of talks.

"The discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The two sides stated their respective positions," the statement said. "It was agreed to continue discussions during the next round of talks."

The wording was almost identical to that of a statement made Friday after three hours of inconclusive talks on a military confrontation in northern Kashmir's Siachen glacier.

Monday's meeting between diplomats and geological experts was the sixth attempt to define the maritime frontiers of the Sir Creek channel that flows into the Arabian Sea.

Previous rounds of talks on the 38-km Sir Creek

estuary, which separates India's western state of Gujarat from the Pakistani province of Sindh, have failed to produce an agreement on just where the boundary lies.

Experts say the dispute, long a cartographic headache, has become more intense because both sides now believe the seabed in and around Sir Creek may hold oil and gas deposits.

Pakistani officials said after the meeting that it was now perhaps time to consider third-party mediation on Sir Creek.

"If we can't make progress on this, maybe our Indian friends could consider the option of arbitration," said one member of the Pakistani delegation, who asked not to be named.

"We have taken the position that if your case is as good as you think perhaps arbitration is the best solution. My suspicion is perhaps our Indian friends may not agree to this."

Monday's talks were part of a wide-ranging round of dialogue, the two sides' first attempt in six years to tackle differences that have

divided them for five decades.

In a round of dialogue scheduled to run until Friday, the two sides will discuss economic and commercial cooperation, terrorism and drug trafficking and the promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. But there has been no indication from either side of progress expected on these subjects, and the talks themselves so far seem deadlocked.

Both dug in their heels in discussions last week on ending the 14-year-old battle of attrition on the Siachen glacier.

Pakistan rejected a proposal for a ceasefire on the glacier, saying it did not address disengagement from what has come to be known as the world's highest and coldest battlefield.

India said it favoured a ceasefire as a first step towards redeployment of forces on the glacier, which falls outside a military control line the neighbours drew up in 1948 after their first conflict over the disputed Kashmir region.

Even on the relatively less

contentious issue of a proposed Indian barrage project on the Jhelum River, which runs through both countries, the two sides failed to narrow differences.

But officials and experts said a beginning had been made, and that both sides were committed to a sustained engagement.

The rivals are under pressure to exercise restraint since they held nuclear tests in May.

"It is good that at least India and Pakistan have begun the talks. They should continue," Pakistani Defence Secretary Iftikhar Ali Khan was quoted as saying in the Indian Express.

Experts believe India and Pakistan are using this round of talks to clarify their positions on a range of issues.

"What is clearly happening is that both sides are, at the moment, more eager to specify their stands on the various issues than to narrow down their differences," the Hindustan Times newspaper said in an editorial titled "Game of Bluff."

## Rebels regain control over Kosovo countryside

JEZERCE, Yugoslavia (AFP) — From his cabin near the Albanian-populated village of Jezerce in southern Kosovo, the Serb policeman warned those approaching: "We are not providing security from here. The KLA rebels are everywhere."

The tar road ends close to the foot of the mountain. In the nearby Serb-populated villages, all the houses are intact. Facing is a hamlet where some 2,500 people lived, now turned into scorched ruins.

Several kilometres further, at the end of a dusty path, ethnic Albanian fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), have set up their local command in a former farmhouse in the centre of the village, which was destroyed in September, the last days of the Serb offensive against the separatist rebels.

Carrying guns, two KLA rebels were paroling the village.

"We need seven to eight hours to walk around the zone we are controlling. And we are always in touch with those in the neighbouring sector," the Jezerce commander, nicknamed "Ferri," said.

"The Serbs want to prevent supplies and block the road which leads right here. But we will remain," he said.

In the mountains, between the towns of Urosevac and Orabovac, the KLA controls the terri-

tory, as it does most of the regions in central and southern areas of the secessionist province, following the rebels' re-taking of positions abandoned by the thousands of Serb security forces which have withdrawn.

Dragobilje, in the northwest, was also wiped out in the September offensive. But now, the village is coming back to life, and its inhabitants have started cultivating the fields and repairing their homes.

Here too, the KLA has taken up positions. Their first checkpoint is at the entrance of the village. Other fighters, armed and wearing camouflaged uniforms bearing a black, two-headed eagle on a red badge, their symbol, stroll in the small central square.

"No problems here. The Serbs are far away. We control the surrounding area," one of the men, presenting himself as a brigade commander, said.

In this 100 per cent-populated Albanian region, the KLA "is a part of the population," commander Ferri said.

"The Serbs came with heavy artillery and could not defeat us. We have been armed for ages, we are more numerous, and we will always win," he added.

The KLA fighters, still using only light guns, are trying to exploit this period of relative calm by seeking to arm themselves better, as they are suspicious of political mediation and the

search for a negotiated solution.

"We have only one goal, the independence of Kosovo," Ferri insisted.

But he said he was "ready to discuss" with foreign diplomats and would respect the unilateral ceasefire proclaimed by the KLA on Oct. 8, "on condition that the Serbs make no provocations."

However, both sides have kept accusing each other of provocations.

Isolated in the middle of the countryside, with no Serb population nearby, Belgrade's forces have, with the approval of the Kosovo Diplomatic Observation Mission (KDOM), maintained a presence "whose accordance with the agreement on withdrawal of troops is difficult to verify," as one western observer said.

Sunday, two armoured transporters and Serb police vehicles were on patrol around Opetusa, a village where the KLA lost five of its fighters in a shoot-out Friday, which they accused Serb forces of provoking.

Not far away, the KLA general command in Retinje was furious. "This road is under our control. The Serbs have no business here," one of the local KLA chiefs said.

Such Serb armoured car patrols are not banned, however. The Serb interior ministry has agreed only not to permanently station forces in Opetusa.

## OSCE chief warns of problems for Kosovo observer mission

MADRID (AFP) — The chairman of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Bronislaw Geremek, Monday predicted security problems for the OSCE observer mission in Kosovo.

"I am convinced that the security problems will begin for the mission in the early spring," Geremek told the Spanish daily El Pais.

A total of 2,000 non-armed international observers will take part in the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM), with the task of checking that Serbian forces and ethnic Albanian separatists respect a ceasefire in the province.

"Starting in March, I will sleep less soundly than now, because the mission's insecurity will be much greater, not only because of weak Yugoslav guarantees but also those of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)," he said.

"We already have the impression that the KLA is now taking back positions abandoned by the police and the Serb army. This allows Milosevic to say that terrorism is active and requires a response because the international community is not capable of stopping it," Geremek said.

Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova "told me that the KLA has no united command nor representative structure," he said, adding: "Rather, these are army detachments that are difficult to control."

"I don't think that sending 2,000 verifiers to Kosovo will be a solution, but it is an initiative that responds to an immediate humanitarian need," said Geremek, who is Poland's foreign minister.

According to the OSCE chairman, the deployment of the first observers has been a deciding factor in enabling 40,000 Kosovo refugees to begin returning home.

## Criminal probes under way for apartheid abuses

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, two former security force generals and others named in the recent Truth Commission report on apartheid-era abuses are under criminal investigation, a prosecutor said Monday.

Statements by the prosecutor, Jan d'Oliveira, were the clearest signal yet that criminal cases would be brought against figures implicated by the commission in gross human rights violations.

The panel released its five-volume report, the result of more than 2 1/2 years of hearings, on Oct. 30. It chronicles the human rights abuses committed by apartheid government and its operatives as well as by the African National Congress and others fighting the racist system.

The commission has the ability to grant amnesty to those who committed political crimes and admit their misdeeds. The report said individuals who have not sought amnesty should be prosecuted.

Such prosecutions could last up to six years, said d'Oliveira, who is prosecutor for Gauteng, the province of Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria. He said ANC figures were among targets of the investigations.

The issue of continuing prosecutions is significant. Many feel that dragging on criminal reckoning of the horrors of the apartheid era will only prolong bitterness and delay reconciliation. But supporters of prosecution feel that denying justice to the victims is a worse evil.

On a practical level, highly public prosecutions of ANC figures could have an impact

on national elections next year, when the party will seek to consolidate its hold on power.

Madikizela-Mandela has not sought amnesty. The commission found her accountable for human rights violations committed by her bodyguards, who the report said killed and tortured suspected opponents.

Madikizela-Mandela was convicted in 1991 of kidnapping and being an accessory to an assault on four young men. She was sentenced to six years in jail, but paid a \$3,200 fine on appeal.

The case and testimony about her activities before the Truth Commission was marked by retractions and conflicting words by witnesses.

"We have good reasons to prepare a prosecution (of Madikizela-Mandela) except for those imponderables, at the

moment," the prosecutor told reporters in Pretoria. He said the probe was half completed, and did not specify what the accusations were.

Madikizela-Mandela, President Nelson Mandela's former wife, is an ANC official and among the most prominent anti-apartheid activists.

In other cases, including one of the two unnamed generals, prosecutors were ready to move forward pending decisions on amnesty applications. The commissioners hope to wrap up their amnesty work by mid-1999.

He said investigators would look carefully at the commission's evidence, and would focus on killings.

"Is there, on the evidence, a reasonable prospect of success of conviction? If there is not, we will not prosecute," he said.

## U.S. Navy planes crash, 1 dead, 3 missing

WASHINGTON (R) — Two U.S. Navy planes collided on the deck of an aircraft carrier Sunday night, killing one crewmember and injuring two, a U.S. Navy spokesman said Monday. Three other crewmembers were missing at sea.

Lt. Cmdr. Herman Phillips said the accident occurred when an EA-6B "Prowler" aircraft, which was landing on the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, crashed into an S-3 "Viking" aircraft, which was stationary on the deck.

"The Prowler crashed as it was landing. They were returning back to the shift from night ops (operations) and crashed into a plane that had just landed," Phillips said in a telephone interview early Monday.

He said the incident occurred at 7:20 p.m. EST Sunday (0020 GMT Monday) in the

Atlantic some 190 kms off the coast of Virginia.

Phillips said the crews of both planes ejected from their aircraft after the crash, but one crewmember from the "Prowler" was killed. Both crewmembers of the Viking had minor injuries.

"We still have not recovered the (other) three from the Prowler," he said, adding that the search was continuing.

The Enterprise had left the Norfolk Naval Station Friday, on a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the Mediterranean sea and Arabian Gulf. The crewmembers were conducting routine carrier qualifications in the Virginia Capes area prior to beginning their Transatlantic crossing, according to a statement from the Navy's U.S. Atlantic Fleet, based in Norfolk, Virginia.

## Yeltsin avoids Kremlin amid row with Communists

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin, who abruptly ended a nine-day Black Sea vacation and flew to Moscow amid an escalating row with the Communists, stayed away from his Kremlin office Monday.

Yeltsin, 67, who returned to the capital Sunday evening despite being scheduled to remain in Sochi recovering from fatigue until later in the week, was spending Monday at his Rus suburban Moscow estate, the Kremlin press office said.

Yeltsin, whose health was reported as "normal" by the Kremlin, is due to host a one-day summit with Japanese Prime Minister Keiko Obuchi Thursday.

The Kremlin hinted Sunday that Yeltsin's early return was linked to a war of words with

the Communist Party that followed a string of anti-Semitic remarks made by nationalist deputy Albert Makashov.

"We will fight all attempts to cast aspersions on national sentiment, to limit the rights of citizens due to their nationality," Yeltsin said in a statement Sunday.

Makashov's remarks, and the Communists' later refusal to censure them in parliament, prompted a string of business leaders and liberal politicians to call for the party to be banned.

But Communist parliament speaker Gennady Seleznyov denounced such demands as "hysterical."

Several leading television commentators have also blasted party officials, who in response have charged the networks with "raping public consciousness."

## 9 die in floods in western Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Heavy floods in western Ukraine have killed nine people, left much of the region badly damaged, and prompted the country to appeal for international assistance, officials said Monday.

Emergency workers found all the dead bodies in the Zakarpattia region, which was inundated by last week's heavy rainfalls, the Emergency Situations Ministry said.

Floods and landslides have destroyed about 800 buildings, dozens of bridges and dams, cut off electricity to more than 100 settlements, and damaged hundreds of kilometres of roads and railways, making some remote villages unreach-

able, the ministry said.

The government has sent appeals to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and European Commission President Jacques Santer to deliver humanitarian aid for people who suffered from the floods.

Ukrainian embassies in Western nations also have been instructed to ask these countries for assistance.

The floods have covered 118 towns and villages in the region, injuring about 300 people. More than 24,000 people were temporarily evacuated, the ministry said.

Emergency Situations Minister Valery Kalchenko has sent more than 8,400 workers to

battle the high waters in the Zakarpattia region. President Leonid Kuchma, who visited the region Friday, ordered the government to allocate 5 million hryvna (\$1.46 million) for the relief effort.

The Ukrainian Meteorological Centre said Monday that heavy rains in Zakarpattia would continue until Wednesday, but they no longer threaten to inundate more settlements.

The floods have also hit a dozen settlements in the western Lviv region, but improving weather there allowed officials to fully resume electricity to most of the flooded villages.



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Editorial and Advertising offices  
Jordan Press Foundation  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman

Telephones: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

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## Lords seek justice

AS THE world impatiently awaits the judgement of Britain's House of Lords on Spain's request for the extradition of former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet for allegedly committing crimes against humanity, it is worthwhile to highlight the implications of his case for international humanitarian law. A British court had earlier quashed the Spanish request on the basis that the Chilean leader is entitled to immunity because he was a head of state when the crimes were committed. According to the British court's ruling, heads of state enjoy "sovereign immunity."

If we take this judgement to its logical conclusion, heads of state such as Adolf Hitler or Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot would be immune from prosecution and punishment had they lived and been apprehended. Obviously this kind of jurisprudence set into motion by the British court which ruled on the Pinochet case would offer warmongers and cruel despots freedom from prosecution and punishment for their crimes. All eyes are, therefore, focused on the House of Lords, the highest court of the land, to see whether it will overrule the judgement of the lesser court on this very important case.

The only relevance that we can see in the role of Pinochet as former president is he was personally aware of what his subordinates had done in the country. If Pinochet claims irresponsibility for not knowing that his security forces were committing international crimes, then he stands to bear a lesser degree of criminal responsibility. The fact that Hitler and Pol Pot were leaders of their respective countries does not absolve them of responsibility for whatever crimes were committed during their reign.

Luckily, the House of Lords acting as Britain's highest court of appeal is seeking guidance from international lawyers and international human rights organisations. This in itself is a good sign since there is a consensus among international jurists that no person is immune from accountability for heinous crimes no matter how high his office was at the time he committed such grave crimes.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneek said the Wye River deal sealed between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel is the last concession the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can make. The Wye deal was reached after a marathon round of talks between the PNA and Israel, and the outcome was only a memorandum of the Oslo accord, said Faneek. How long will the negotiations have to last on issues such as statehood, Jerusalem, the refugees, the border, and the question of settlements? Faneek said the Wye deal will be fully implemented despite Israel's procrastination, simply because the United States have become intimately involved in the deal, and in any case, according to Faneek, the deal gives the PNA control of only around half the West Bank. But the Wye deal will be the first time the two sides can go, because Netanyahu cannot accept what the PNA wants, even if he was willing, said Faneek: Netanyahu cannot give up east Jerusalem for the Palestinians, and Arafat cannot give up east Jerusalem for Israel. The way ahead is blocked.

Al Dustuur's editorial cast doubt on Israel's willingness to implement the Wye deal, saying that the latest Israeli actions show their dishonesty and lack of seriousness in meeting their obligations. Israeli expansion of settlements in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem, as well as Netanyahu's letter to the settlers is proof of this, said the Arabic daily. The paper charged that these actions block the peace process from going any further, and gives strong incentive to terrorists to continue their operations against Israeli targets, because they will feel that they are close to achieving their goal of destroying the peace process. Al Dustuur charged that Netanyahu's policy-making is drawn without heed to PNA obligations, but purely from self-interest.

## View from the Fourth Circle

# The Saeb and David road show

Rami G. Khouri

THE WEEKS since the signing of the Wye agreements on Palestinian-Israeli peace-making have emphasised the strengths and weaknesses of the current Oslo process. Its complex and contradictory dynamics are most dramatically seen in the Saeb and David Show. This new CNN programme sees chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat and the Israeli prime minister's communications adviser David Bar-Ilan sit in the CNN Jerusalem studio and vigorously debate the fate of the Wye accord. Hollywood and history converge here — but only one of them can emerge triumphant.

The Saeb and David Show compresses the entire Oslo process into a neat slice of entertainment and diplomacy: the two sides meet regularly, in civil, face-to-face gatherings, they profess peaceful desires, debate, disagree, negotiate, challenge one another, demand full compliance, and probe for signs of non-compliance. In doing so they reveal that Palestinians and Israelis both feel intense domestic and international political pressure to make this Oslo peace process succeed in a fair manner. Yet, the positive tendency to achieve a just peace may not survive the negative Israeli tendencies that could make the whole process collapse in an embarrassing heap of character flaws and political incompetence.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the most convoluted and contradictory character in this drama. Simultaneously, a) he is whittling away at the edges of his extremist, colonial, and apartheid-like Zionist doctrine that sees the land of Greater Israel as the exclusive and perpetual patrimony of the Jewish people, and the indigenous ancient Palestinians of the same land as only irksome demographic footnotes; b) he has started his slow turn towards the centre of the Israeli political spectrum, where a vast and consistent majority of reasonable Israelis want the Oslo process to lead to a permanent peace that would inevitably — they admit and accept — include a Palestinian state; c) in order to achieve the

above, he throws juicy ideological bones to the hounds on his right wing that he is abandoning — in the form of tough statements about the continuation of Jewish colonies and settlements in the Arab lands occupied in 1967, and the eternal right of the Jewish people to build new rooms for their new babies anywhere in the land where Abraham's goats grazed and fertilised this spiritualised soil (these statements are always coupled with the prime minister's distinctive but transparent frown, furrowed forehead, and sensational Hollywood eyebrow movements — all signalling Serious Business At Hand); and, d) like many other Israelis, he is slowly coming to grips with the reality that he can have peace and acceptance, or he can have Palestinian land, but he cannot have both.

Yet, he still makes two specific mistakes that could kill the peace process. First, he continues to demand from the Palestinians impossible security guarantees that are substantively unrealistic and politically counter-productive. We all agree that an end to terror against either side is a moral and political prerequisite, and a goal that must be pursued with relentless determination and efficacy. But it is a cruel irony that, a) Israel itself allowed or perhaps even promoted the emergence of Islamist Palestinian groups when it directly occupied the West Bank and Gaza (hoping they would counter the weight of Arafat and his Fateh group), and, b) Israel itself was unable to stop terror when it controlled all Palestine, and cannot stop it today in areas under its direct security control. This does not detract from the moral and political imperative to fight terror and to try and wipe it out. It just cautions us to be realistic about how this will be achieved.

Second, the arrogant and contemptuous manner in which Netanyahu addresses terror and other issues increases the chances of Oslo's failure and collapse. Netanyahu repeatedly and publicly orders Arafat around, tells him what he must do, spells out bow and by whom

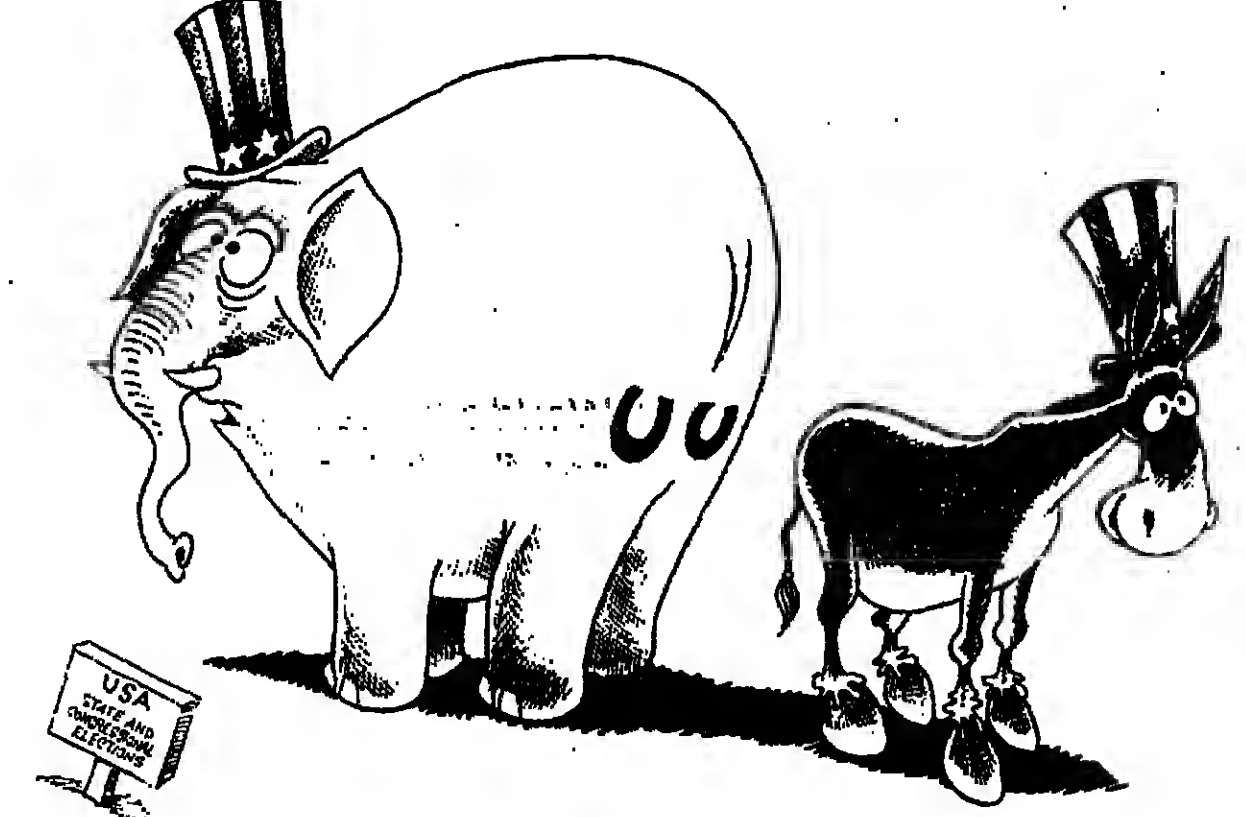
the Palestine National Charter must be changed, and lists the people Arafat must arrest and the Palestinian institutions he must close in order for Israel to fulfil its part of the Oslo accords — all in the service of an appropriate goal, but one that Israel itself could not achieve when it directly controlled all of Palestine.

This Israeli arrogance destroys the conceptual ground on which the Oslo accords have found amazingly durable support among Palestinians in Palestine — the principle that a slow, incremental disengagement would eventually lead to a sovereign Palestinian state alongside the Israeli state, the implementation of virtually equal Israeli and Palestinian national rights, and Israel's full acceptance in the region.

Netanyahu and the Israeli people should remember why there is such strong anti-Israeli sentiment in Palestine, Jordan, Egypt and other Arab lands that have tested peace-making with Israel. The main reason is the self-righteous, heavy-handed, and overbearing manner in which Israel demands that its national rights and the security of its citizens be achieved — and also perpetually guaranteed — before the Palestinians, Syrians or Lebanese can enjoy the same rights. Netanyahu's tough-guy posture may maintain his incumbency as the prime minister of Israel, but it also transforms the flawed but palatable Oslo peace-making process into a totally unacceptable process of Arab vassalage to Zionist ideology and mythology.

Netanyahu must learn the key lesson of the past half decade since the Oslo accords were signed: a lasting and just peace can be achieved if it is based on mutual concessions leading to the full national rights of both sides; it cannot be achieved on a foundation of superior and priority Israeli rights, alongside auxiliary, conditional, and secondary Palestinian and Arab rights. Many thoughtful and realistic Israelis have realised this: the Israeli government does not appear to be among them.

M. KAHIL



## Malaysia: The end of an era?

By Gwynne Dyer

"IF SOMEONE higher than the deputy prime minister were to instruct you to come and lie to the court here, would you do it?" asked the defence lawyer for Malaysia's jailed ex-deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim. "Depends on the situation," replied Mohammed Said Awang, the head of the Malaysian police's Special Branch. In a burst of honesty he may live to regret.

For the last six years, until he was dismissed in September, only one person in Malaysia was higher than Anwar, and that was Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Anwar was Mahathir's political heir, and many expected that the 73-year-old leader would withdraw from power after a triumphal last lap this autumn as host to the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) summit. That expectation was probably not realistic: Mahathir has run Malaysia for 17 years, and would not know how to let go. Now Anwar, the only man with the popular support to challenge him, is being tried before the High Court on charges of sexual misconduct, while the local press obediently runs the regime's leaked "evidence" under headlines like: 'Anwar Sodomised Me Fifteen Times'.

But out in the streets of Kuala Lumpur, thousands gather daily to protest the trial and the over-long rule of Mahathir (whom one demonstrator, a retired army officer, called 'the Stalin of Malaysia'). Most days the police disperse the demos, but it's all done with a certain delicacy of touch, as befits a society with a history of ethnic violence. A few hundred heads have been bashed, a few hundred people have been arrested, but nobody has died.

Yet it is a real crisis for the regime. Mahathir is no Stalin, but the popular anger against him is real, and it spans the ethnic divide that the Malaysian leader has exploited for so long: not just the minority Chinese and Indians are out protesting, but his own majority Malay community as well.

The demonstrations identify with no party and have no defined leadership. They include people from all walks of life, not just students — and that very

formlessness is their greatest strength. "We've got no saviour, but it doesn't matter," said a middle-aged scientist at a protest in central KL last month. "Look what happened in Tiananmen and in Indonesia. There were no leaders, but it did not stop the flames from igniting."

Mahathir would quite rightly object that his regime does not remotely resemble the totalitarian tyranny of China. He would probably also claim in private that Malaysia's government is much more open and law-abiding, and much less corrupt, than the Suharto regime that fell to popular protests in neighbouring Indonesia last May, and again he would be right. But that is not the point.

For 17 years Mahathir has run a one-man regime behind the facade of a democratic state with the help of compliant media, obedient courts, and enthusiastically partisan police. It did not need to be a very repressive regime, because the economy was growing fast enough to keep most people happy — and because the minorities feared that open opposition to Mahathir's ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) might trigger a return of the dreadful anti-Chinese race riots of 1965.

Within UMNO, Mahathir kept control by co-opting potential rivals. Those who could be bought off with money were given shares in Malaysia's 'crony capitalist' sector, while those with enough political clout to be dangerous, like Anwar, were given high office. And by and large, the costs of this system were manageable.

Malaysia had no political prisoners, the courts mostly worked as they should, and the level of corruption was far below that of Indonesia. Moreover, Malaysia's economic miracle was real: not only does Kuala Lumpur have the world's tallest building in its centre, but the endless suburbs sprawling down the Klang Valley to the sea give most of its people decent housing at a reasonable cost.

When the Asian financial crisis struck last year, Malaysia was sideswiped by the investor panic, but restoring confidence would have been easier than in Thailand or Indonesia. Anwar Ibrahim, who doubled as finance minister, argued that if Malaysia followed the International

Monetary Fund's suggestions and carried out a painful but brief cleansing of the 'crony capitalist' sector, it could expect an early return to prosperity. Alas, Mahathir disagreed.

He has a strong paranoid streak (he claimed that the whole international crisis was a conspiracy by Jewish speculators to cripple successful Muslim states), and he was also worried that dumping the cronies would erode his own political base. So instead, in early September, he forced the central bank governor to resign, effectively took Malaysia out of the global economy by making its currency non-convertible, sacked Anwar Ibrahim — and started building a case against him for serial sodomy.

At this point, it does get a bit Stalin-esque. The charges that Anwar, a pious Muslim and father of six, forced his attentions on his adopted brother, his speech-writer, his private secretary's driver (and, in an aberrant moment of heterosexual, his private secretary's wife) are preposterous, and the 'confessions' supporting the charges are worthy of the Moscow show trials.

But Mahathir's gentle version of one-man rule may be his undoing, for Malaysia's courts retain enough self-respect that they may not convict Anwar. Already police testimony has discredited two of the charges as politically-motivated fabrications, and two others of Anwar's alleged victims, now in jail, have repudiated their confessions and claim that they were extracted under torture.

The charges against Anwar will keep him in jail and in court at least until next May, and daily demos at the current level will never unseat Mahathir. However, recent experience suggests that 'Asian Values' strongmen like Mahathir are in deep trouble when the economy ceases to flourish. Given the country's relatively high level of education and its formally democratic institutions, change could be coming to Malaysia sooner than Mahathir thinks.

The writer is a London-based journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

## Best wishes

To the editor:

YOUR MAJESTY King Hussein, we give you our sincere felicitations on the occasion of your birthday. Please accept our best & devoted wishes. May God keep you in good health for today and the years ahead. Have a lovely day among your family and the nation.

Tony Tawil & Family  
Perth  
Australia

To the editor:

IT'S A great honour for me to be allowed to participate in signing the letter of loyalty to our beloved King Hussein, wishing him a happy birthday, a full recovery and a long bappy life. Best wishes on a special day.

Rana Nweiran  
RNweiran@aol.com  
USA

To the editor:

FROM MONTREAL, Canada, we want to wish our beloved King. His Majesty King Hussein, a very bappy birthday. We pray to God to grant him long life, a full recovery, and a safe return to his people and Kingdom. God save our King.

Raymond Issid and family  
Montreal  
Canada

## Study of others and study of self

To the editor:

I WOULD like to congratulate Prince Ali's initiative to preserve the Circassian culture. The reason I found his project particularly worthwhile is due to my observation that in this day and age, Arabs do not seem to show much interest in studying other ethnic cultures let alone try to preserve virtually extinct populations. I have known many Arabs who have studied English or European literature, but this as far as their interests go. Many Westerners are found going to the ends of the world searching for the mysteries and the secrets of remote ethnic cultures like the Mayans of Mexico, the Zulus of Africa and the Aborigines of Australia. Apart from Edward Said, who wrote several books about the Orient, I know of no other Arab researcher who is specialising in the study of "exotic" ethnic cultures. I was therefore very pleasantly surprised to read about His Royal Highness' interest in the Circassian culture. I congratulate him as an ordinary person not as royalty for setting an example of chivalry and courage in the hope that many others will take up his example.

While on the subject, perhaps we should even start thinking about preserving our own culture. A word that seems to have no meaning to most young people from my generation in Jordan. Very few young Jordanians, even those who leave Jordan to receive higher education abroad, seem to have much knowledge about Arabic music, the poetry of Jahiliya or, as a matter of fact, modern literature. I know not a single youth of my age who has read the Nobel Prize winner, Naqib Mahfouz, or the Khalil Gibran.

I cannot even begin to describe how pleased I was to read Marwan Hanania's letter (November 3) which made me feel that there exists someone else who shares my nostalgia for the beautiful Arabic poetry and literature, the old bedouin tunes and the beautiful voice of the Rabbabah.

Driving a Mercedes 500 convertible should not be a measure of a person's worth. I once heard the echo of a bedouin singing at night while I was leaving Petra — this is truly priceless.

Dima Sakrab  
imsd070@mail.uni-wuerzburg.de



# U.S. right in turmoil after Newt quits

By Andrew Marshall

THE DEMOCRATS in Washington will have woken Saturday morning and pinched themselves. Was it all just a dream? Or did their Republican adversaries really toss their leader overboard after an election rout? It was reality, not fantasy. For four years the Republicans followed Newt Gingrich, the silver-haired revolutionary, on his self-imposed crusade to shake up American government. That crusade ended suddenly on Friday night with his resignation.

Suddenly, everything is up for grabs in American politics, and the Republican party risks a civil war.

And that is bad news for those who seek the party's nomination for the presidential race in 2000.

It may yet remove the boyish grin from George W. Bush, whose smile made him the acceptable face of the Republican party in a week when there were precious few things to smile about. The Bush brothers, George W. and Jeb, emerged as the new role models for the party in the elections, by sweeping all before them in Texas and Florida respectively while the Republicans crashed and burned elsewhere. They are both conservatives, but cuddly conservatives, more interested in practical politics than ideology. George W. is easily the front runner in the nomination stakes, and exit polls show him beating Al Gore, vice president and the likely Democratic choice, hands down. The party — keen to put on a friendly face again — was moving yesterday to elevate him further. A group of Republican activists was meeting in Iowa to decide on their candidate for 2000, Iowa leads off the primary season, and an endorsement here would give him considerable momentum.

So what could derail him? The Republican party itself, that's what. As Gingrich's resignation showed, it is developing a taste for self-mutilation.

His departure may have come as a total shock, but pressure had been building for months, and

dissatisfaction stemmed partly from events that go back to 1993, the year he arrived as speaker. Gingrich was seen as having bungled a budget showdown with the White House, and repeated the mistake this year. The moderates in the party saw him as too ideological, too obsessed with himself, and more of a bomb-thrower than

*'When the team is losing you get a new coach. They [the Republican leadership] caved in on everything of importance to the pro-family and pro-life community.'*

a party boss.

But Gingrich made clear that his real problems lie with the party's conservatives. In the conference call with Republicans where he announced his intention to resign, Gingrich lashed out at them in no uncertain terms. "A handful of members have blackmailed the conference," he said, according to one Republican quoted in the New York Times. The speaker had also called them "hateful" and "cannibals."

"Look, I'm the speaker, so I'll take responsibility," Gingrich had said after the election defeat. But he warned those who were circling around his leadership to hack off. "I think the

people who normally are quoted in this are people who would in fact take the party to a narrower base with fewer members." It was from the Christian fundamentalist wing of the party that the real venom came after the elections.

"When the team is losing you get a new coach," James Dobson, the eminence grise of the new Christian conservative movement, said after the election. "They lost their nerve at the end of the session," he said of the party leadership. "They caved in on everything of importance to the pro-family and pro-life community." Dobson has been saying for months that the Republicans were failing to make a mark, because they did not connect with the wishes of Christian fundamentalists, and earlier this year threatened to pull his group away from the Republicans.

Some conservative Christians, it emerges, had made that decision for themselves, with a significant proportion defecting to vote for conservative Democrats. If the Republicans in general had a bad time at the polls on Tuesday, the religious right had a wretched election, perhaps the worst since it emerged as a force in 1980. The Christian Coalition spent \$1.3m, and the Campaign for Working Families, which is allied to Dobson, spent nearly \$3m, yet many of their candidates failed to get in.

The diagnosis of what went wrong varies sharply across the party. Randy Tate, the Christian Coalition executive director, said the Republicans failed to offer a "clear conservative agenda." But the moderates believe it is precisely the domination of the religious right that is hampering them. "When Republicans try to tell the American people what they should think about someone else's morality, we get thumped," said Mark Miller, head of the Republican Leadership Council.

The activists meeting in Iowa to support Bush will be drawn largely from the conservative right, and they will want him to demonstrate his conservative credentials. That risks pushing him further to the right than the electorate may like.

But an endorsement now poses other dangers. There are plenty of candidates who will try to outflank him on the right, notably Steve Forbes, the millionaire publisher who has spent the years since his defeat for the presidency in 1996 burnishing his conservative credentials. Bush had said he wanted to make a decision about standing for the presidency only next year. Partly that is because he has, after all, only just been reelected governor of Texas. But he and his advisers also know that there is a serious risk that by being out in front so early, Bush simply becomes an easier target for the right at a time when the party's schisms are opening up.

Conservatives are a small but important part of the electorate. Fifty per cent of this year's voters said they considered themselves moderates, up about five per cent, and they wanted to vote on issues like education and social security. Conservatives — who make up about a third of the electorate, down five per cent — put moral values at the top of their list of concerns.

But they loom much larger in the Republican Party, where they are a crucial element amongst the party's activists, and — individually and through political action committees — they can deliver vast amounts of money. They did for Gingrich. And if Bush does not demonstrate some fancy footwork, they could do for him too.

— The Independent



Taking out the trash on the day of his resignation (Reuters photo)

## Environment

### Former atom bomb test site becomes camel reserve

By Geoffrey Lean

BEATING SWORDS into ploughshares is old hat, it seems. This week there is to be an international treaty to give up atomic weapons for camels.

On Wednesday, China and the U.N. are to sign an agreement to turn the country's Lop Nor nuclear test site into a sanctuary for the rare Bactrian camel.

The unprecedented move results from three pioneering expeditions to the desolate area north of Tibet — replete with extraordinary feats of derring-do — by a group of sexagenarian explorers.

The new nature reserve — a barren and still partially unexplored tract the size of Germany — will protect 400 wild Bactrian camels, which have survived more than 40 overhead nuclear explosions only to be threatened by hunters. It is the first ever to be set up on an atomic bomb test site. The two-humped wild Bactrians are the last representatives of the herds from which all the world's camels are descended. The one-humped dromedaries of the Middle East are believed to have evolved from them: one hump equips them better to withstand extreme heat.

This week's agreement largely springs from a long campaign by John Hare, a retired international civil servant from Kent, who persuaded the Chinese to allow him to be the first foreigner to enter the area



Bactrian camels in the Gobi desert (file photo)

for 50 years. He led three expeditions into the former test site, fighting off bandits, repairing a truck with wire from an old rocket, and twice almost being stranded hundreds of miles from the nearest villages in one of the most inhospitable places on earth.

There is no fresh water in the vast area, only salt springs. The camels have adapted to drinking salt water: they eat dry grass and tamarisks that grow around the springs. "There is nothing, no people, no fresh water, virtually no vegetation, no birds and almost no animals except the camels," said Mr Hare. "That's why China chose it for the tests." Some 45

atmospheric explosions are thought to have been carried out before the tests went underground.

Testing stopped in 1996. Mr Hare admits to having been a "camel wallah" for 40 years, since he was the last recruit to join the British Overseas Civil Service as an administrative officer in northern Nigeria. He used camels for transport on the fringes of the Sahara, and later renewed his acquaintance with them in northern Kenya, working for the U.N. Environment Programme in Nairobi.

In 1995, on his first expedition, he was the first foreigner ever to cross the Gushan Gobi desert, the

desolate heartland of the camel's territory, from north to south. He took the first-ever photograph of a wild Bactrian camel with a new-born calf, deep in remote sand dunes.

Between expeditions Mr Hare lobbied for a sanctuary, set up a foundation to raise money for it and published a book, "The Lost Camels of Tartary" (Little, Brown). He flies out this week to the U.N. Environment Programme's headquarters in Nairobi for the signing of the agreement. Reflecting on his close shaves, he said: "You are lucky to be talking to me, really."

— The Independent

### Tomorrow's outlook: Misery for millions

*World's biggest super-computer predicts water shortages and floods that will plunge millions into poverty and hunger*

By Paul Brown

LARGE SWATHES of the planet will be plunged into misery by climate change in the next 50 years, with many millions ravaged by hunger, water shortages and flooding, according to evidence published yesterday. Findings from Britain's Hadley Centre for Climate Change presented to 170 countries in Buenos Aires show that parts of the Amazon rain forest will turn into desert by 2050, threatening the world with an unstoppable greenhouse effect.

The startling findings are the result of billions of calculations made by the world's biggest super-computer, installed at the Hadley Centre in Berkshire. The latest figures show the earth is heating up fast, with 1998 already the hottest year since reliable records began 140 years ago. Among the findings are:

Land temperatures will go up 6C by the end of the next century. The number of people on the coast subject to flooding each year will rise from 5 million now to 100 million by 2050 and 200 million by 2080. Another 30 million people will be hungry in 50 years because it will be too dry to grow crops in large parts of Africa.

An extra 170 million people will live in countries with extreme water shortages.

Malaria, one of the

world's most dread diseases, will threaten much larger areas of the world — including Europe — by 2050.

The new predictions include far better representations of ocean currents, which drive the world's climate. The Gulf Stream, which is important for warming Britain in the winter, will be 20 per cent less strong in the future but Europe will still warm considerably.

Western Europe, including Scotland, will gain the ability to grow extra grain, but the storms of the past few weeks will be typical of the more extreme weather conditions the country can expect.

The impact on food supply will be particularly bad for Africa and the United States. The whole of central and southern Africa will have reduced ability to grow staple crops, but in world political terms the adverse effects on the US prairies is likely to prove very important.

Droughts and extra heat leading to evaporation means that wheat and maize yields will drop up to 10 per cent. Since the vast surplus of the US wheat belt is important to the country's wealth and its hold on world food supplies, this prediction will be bad news for the White House.

The US stands accused of holding up talks designed to reduce the world's output of carbon dioxide, so it is iron-

ic that on the first day of the two-week meeting in Argentina the latest models show that the US will be among the countries most severely affected. Canada, on the other hand, will see wheat production increase by 2.5 per cent. The Canadian forests will extend northwards into what is now tundra.

Perhaps the most startling finding is the prospect of a runaway greenhouse effect after 2050. It has been thought that the speed of global warming would be moderated by the extra growth in plants and trees made possible because of more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This carbon dioxide fertiliser effect stimulates plants to grow faster.

The latest information shows that this benefit will be lost in 2050 because of lack of rainfall in key areas. Worst affected will be northern Brazil, where the Amazon rain forest will turn into desert, and the eastern United States. Parts of southern Europe will become virtual deserts at the same time.

Many tropical grasslands will also be transformed into deserts, leading to widespread extinction of wildlife.

The rise in global sea level will be 21cm (3.2in) by 2050. The coasts of the southern Mediterranean, Egypt, west and east Africa, south and south-east Asia are most vulnerable. The

islands of the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans, some only a few feet above sea level, are at risk of being overwhelmed during storms.

Increased warmth leads to a dramatic rise in the number of malaria cases where the disease is already endemic. It is already spreading north — Italy had an outbreak last year — and is expected to reach the Baltic by 2050. Although parts of Britain are already warm enough for the mosquitoes that carry the lesser Vivax malaria, no infection has so far reached these shores. The more dangerous P. falciparum form needs warmer temperatures but conditions will be right for it within 50 years over large parts of Europe.

The problem for doctors is that in 60 per cent of the world where malaria is currently unknown populations have little or no immunity to the disease and an epidemic could cause high death rates in adults and children.

Michael Meacher, the environment minister who is going to Argentina, said: "These are sobering findings. Millions of people will have life made miserable by climate change, with increased risk of hunger, water shortages and extreme events like flooding. Combating climate change is the greatest challenge of human history."

— The Guardian

### Earth to be hit by solar storm in 2000

By Robin McKie

SCIENTISTS HAVE warned of a new millennium disaster — from outer space. They say electromagnetic space storms will wipe out telephone lines and television signals, cripple aircraft navigation systems and leave cities without power supplies.

Researchers say storms — which will reach a peak early in 2000 — will also disable many of the 500 satellites that orbit the Earth.

"We now have hundreds of billions of dollars of equipment orbiting over our heads, and they will all be at risk in the first few weeks of the millennium," said Nick Flowers, of Britain's Mullard Space Laboratory.

This warning was backed last week by the U.S. National Oceanic and

Administration (NOAA). Its forecasters said that the sun is heading into the most violent part of its 11-year cycle of activity — known as the solar maximum. This will peak in about 18 months' time. In 1989, during the last solar maximum, the sun blasted out huge bursts of high-energy particles — coronal mass ejections. These solar storms battered Earth's protective radiation belts.

The effects were particularly strong in high latitudes and triggered powerful electric currents in telephone and electrical equipment. In space, the storms fused equipment in satellites.

There are 250 communications satellites in special high orbit over Earth. Hovering 23,000 miles above the ground, they are particularly vulnerable to solar storms.

However, the greatest danger is likely to be posed by a breakdown in the U.S. Global Positioning System. This fleet of satellites provides navigation and guidance for aircraft across the world.

"A failure of this system could have very serious consequences, even if it was only a temporary breakdown," said Flowers. "It won't cause aircraft to crash, but it could bring havoc to traffic control." However, of more immediate concern is the Leonid meteor shower, which will hit Earth on 17 November. Meteors pose no risk to humans but could cause serious damage in space, where satellites face a one-in-500 chance of being destroyed by a meteor.

— The Independent

### New test more humane to lab animals

By Maggie Fox  
Reuters

U.S. GOVERNMENT scientists said on Monday they have endorsed a new skin test for irritating chemicals that they say will be more humane and use fewer animals.

It is the first test to be endorsed by a new inter-agency committee assigned to come up with acceptable alternatives for the current regime of tests that many groups say are cruel and inaccurate.

The new test checks for contact dermatitis, an irritating skin condition that bothers consumers and which costs industry up to \$1 billion a year in lost workdays

and productivity.

Animals are currently used to test products for contact dermatitis — usually guinea pigs. The new test uses mice instead, requires one-half to one-third as many of the animals, and can be done in a week instead of three to six weeks.

The old test involved applying the chemical several times.

Then you waited a period of time and then reapplied the chemical to elicit a hypersensitive reaction, which involves redness and swelling," William Stokes of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), who led the committee, said in a telephone interview. Stokes said the new test also does not

use irritating chemicals that worsen the reaction, causing pain and suffering to the laboratory animals.

In the new test, mice are shaved and the chemical applied, in the usual way. But six days later the mice are killed "humanely" and a lymph node is removed and examined.

If there is a reaction, Stokes said, white blood cells will have gathered in the lymph node.

Stokes said he was pleased both with the test and with the review process. The committee's recommendations will go to a larger group, which will decide whether federal agencies should adopt the test as standard.



Researcher sees pre  
of the weak point



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### Researcher sees present borrowing strategy as one of the weak points of adjustment programme

THE STRATEGY of foreign borrowing which was prevailing before 1989 hardly changed since the beginning of the adjustment programme and the present strategy is one of the weak points which should be reconsidered, said Odeh Weiss, an economic researcher. "A new strategy that would be in harmony with the objectives and aspirations of the adjustment programme should be formulated," he stressed.

Weiss said the adjustment process did not end yet and indicated that there are many necessary objectives for the coming stage. "Consequently, proceeding with a new 5-year plan or an adjustment programme is fundamental and there is nothing to stop the programme or justify foreclosing it," he added.

The researcher said administrative and taxation reform is still at the early stages and the adjustment programme requires fundamental and basic reform in both of them. He mentioned the decline in economic growth, the drop in the rate of investments to the gross domestic product and the higher rate of consumption as other factors that push for the continuation of the adjustment programme.

Weiss explained that most of the factors that influenced the adjustment and made it achieve some of its objectives were external factors which also derailed the programme from attaining other targets. He attributed the return of expatriates and large amounts of their savings after the Gulf war for bringing up the economic performance after two years of the crisis. "As such, the growth rates have exceeded all expectations and, until 1995, the rate of consumption to the gross domestic product kept declining," Weiss said.

"Consequently, the objectives of the programme were achieved and necessary savings were created to finance investments," he indicated noting that another achievement was recorded in lower deficit in the current account of the balance of payments.

Along such accomplishments were the accumulation of foreign currencies due to a higher rate of exports than that of imports and the postponement of debt repayment through rescheduling, buying or swapping the debt. In addition, Weiss said, financial aid received until 1995 left a positive mark on the balance of payments.

The researcher did not see the accumulation of foreign currency reserves coming from real economic performance within a sustained development perspective and from real channels through which foreign currency flows. He saw the control over the general price level resulting mainly from the drop in prices in the international markets and from the state of recession which consolidated the pressure for downward levels.

He said that the rate of consumption to the gross domestic product could not be maintained on a downward trend, especially after 1996, and that the drop in the budget deficit was limited to the central government after disengaging the public institutions that carried a heavy financial burden. "As such, the decline in the budget deficit does not represent the real objective which should eliminate the public sector," Weiss added.

He concluded that the internal debt was rising rapidly two years ago saying that the certificates of deposit are part of that debt. He stressed that the law governing the debt should be amended to take into consideration the certificates of deposit (Al Dustour).

### ENI calls on Saudi to open gas sector

ABU DHABI (R) — The head of Italian oil company ENI has called on Saudi Arabia to open up its gas sector and take on the role of exporter.

ENI Chairman Guglielmo Moscati told a gas conference that proven gas reserves in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia had increased to 20 trillion cubic metres from 14 trillion cubic metres 10 years ago.

Although Russia and Iran have the biggest reserves, problems of developing remaining reserves and difficulty of access to Russian markets and Iranian restraints on long-term foreign investment gave Arab producers in the Gulf an edge, he said.

"Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia therefore have an opportunity to considerably increase their role as gas exporters, or in the case of Saudi Arabia, enter the business, reversing the kingdom's traditional hostility to the very notion of gas exports," Moscati told the gathering.

In Saudi Arabia, which holds a quarter of the world's oil reserves, much territory remained unexplored and the largest portion of resources was still undiscovered, he added.

Saudi Arabia said last year that its recoverable gas reserves stood at some 204 trillion cubic feet (5.7 trillion cubic metres).

### Cash-flush Israeli venture cap funds face dilemma

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's venture capital funds are so flush with money that they face a daunting challenge about what to do with it, fund managers said during a recent industry conference.

"Venture capital in Israel has been hurt by its own success," said Matzy Karp, chief executive officer of Concord Venture Management, which completed a \$75 million fund-raising in February.

The Israeli venture capital industry has raised huge amounts of capital over the last two years, virtually all of it targeted at the country's burgeoning high technology industry.

A survey by Giza Group, an Israeli investment bank, found that Israeli technology funds raised \$578 million last year, compared with \$287 million in 1996 and just \$79 million in 1995.

Yigal Erlich, chairman of the Israel Venture Association and head of Yoza Venture Capital Ltd. said that by the time this fund-raising wave is over, Israel's 65-plus funds will have added more than \$1 billion to their stockpile.

Erlich said the funds could have raised more had technology stocks not taken a hit on Wall Street in recent months. Funds typically reap their biggest returns from taking their companies public, usually in the United States.

"Because of the situation in the U.S., the wave is ending earlier... It's more difficult to raise money now," he said.

Still, industry officials said Israeli venture capital funds face an embarrassment of riches.

Israelis have a good track record in developing innovative technologies and have shown a keen desire to form new companies to commercialise them. But fund managers fret that the quality of new ideas coming their way is declining while the competition for good deals is sharpening.

Jonathan Medved of Israel Seed Partners said too many of the budding entrepreneurs were "greenhorns" with little or no business experience.

They were inspired by the \$407 million buyout by America Online of Internet company Mirabilis Ltd. in

June and the success of Check Point Software Technologies Ltd., a maker of network security products.

"There isn't enough quality. There's too much money chasing after too few quality deals, hence valuations are high," said Karp, who warned that rising valuations — the price assigned to a company offering equity — would hurt the funds' returns.

But Ed Mavsky, a partner in Gemini Capital Fund Management Ltd., said he was confident the supply of new entrepreneurs would continue to grow because so many talented people were prepared to risk comfortable jobs to form companies.

"The presence of money sucks entrepreneurs out of places where you wouldn't have found them before," he said. "We see people in major scientific institutions leaving in their forties and fifties to start a company."

Many fund managers said they were hoping to steer clear of the crowd by reducing the amount of intermediate financing they do. Instead, they said they would focus more on seed

stage investment (new companies) or mezzanine financing (for more mature companies) that most funds have shunned until now.

"Where the competition is today is for the first and second rounds (of financing). Everyone wants the company with a product to sell, management and still not priced to the sky," said Medved.

He said because the initial public offering window was gradually closing on Wall Street there would be increased need for mezzanine financing to tide companies over until they could go public.

But Medved doubted many funds would do much seed financing because the risk and effort required were too big.

He noted that seed-level financing usually entailed small outlays of around \$0.5 million, which would be hard for a fund of \$50-\$75 million to oversee.

"How many deals can one partner handle? Most of these funds have two or three managers," Medved said.

### South Korea's ailing auto industry slips into seventh place in world rankings

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's ailing auto industry has slipped from fifth to seventh place in the world rankings of vehicle producers following a 25.5 per cent drop in output this year, industry officials have said.

South Korea maintained fifth place in terms of production for three years until this year when the country was gripped by its worst economic contraction in decades.

In 1998, auto industry sources said, output is expected to fall off by a whopping 25.5 per cent from last year to around 2.1 million units.

Domestic sales are meanwhile forecast to shrink around 32.4 per cent to 720,000 units year-on-year, amid slashed consumer spending and rises in petrol prices in South Korea.

"Basically, the increase in the cost of maintaining vehicles, especially the rise in the price of fuel, has severely dampened domestic consumption at a time when there is less money to go around," an official of the Korea Automobile Manufacturers' Association (KAMA) said.

But on the more positive front, auto exports are expected to climb to 2.5 per cent year-on-year to 1.35 million units on the back of the 35 per cent

A.F.M. TRADE Monday, 09-11-98  
ACCESS 4646868

Company	Open Price	Close Price	Change
<b>BANKS</b>			
AB	208.750	207.000	+0.61%
JNB	1.520	1.520	+1.23%
JIB	2.780	2.780	0.00%
JKB	1.680	1.670	-0.60%
JIB	1.520	1.510	-0.66%
PIE	0.600	0.590	-1.67%
<b>BANKS INDEX</b>	272.200		point = +0.41%
<b>SERVICES</b>			
JEPKO	1.430	1.430	0.00%
JNSI	1.140	1.080	-5.26%
JAFIE	1.880	1.880	+1.59%
ULDCO	0.510	0.540	+5.88%
<b>SERVICES INDEX</b>	102.460		point = -0.50%
<b>INDUSTRY</b>			
JPMC	1.170	1.110	-5.13%
JPRC	10.180	10.210	+0.29%
JWM	5.680	5.680	-0.68%
JPMC	2.520	2.510	-0.40%
JPC	2.800	2.880	+2.71%
JTC	1.080	1.080	-0.92%
JPC	1.980	1.860	-5.13%
ACDI	6.880	6.940	+1.31%
JNSI	0.460	0.470	+2.17%
JIS	0.880	0.840	-1.19%
JSP	0.380	0.370	-2.63%
JCI	1.000	1.050	+5.00%
ACPC	1.170	1.180	-0.85%
EL ZAY	1.150	1.120	-2.61%
JIR	0.410	0.400	-2.44%
<b>INDUSTRY INDEX</b>	68.930		point = -0.48%
<b>PARALLEL</b>			
JEFB 75	0.910	0.890	-1.23%
J	1.320	1.380	+4.50%
JYC	0.570	0.590	+3.51%
JPI	0.530	0.530	0.00%
JIT	0.200	0.200	0.00%
OPTICAL WEARING	0.320	0.330	+3.13%
READY MIX	0.730	0.760	+4.11%
CENTURY	0.970	0.890	-8.12%
NAMICO	0.260	0.260	+0.00%
MEPC 90	0.480	0.490	+2.08%
JIE	0.210	0.210	0.00%
NPC	0.840	0.840	0.00%
ASP	0.980	0.130	-8.73%
NUTRI DAR	0.650	0.650	0.00%
<b>GRAND INDEX</b>	162.03		point = +0.17%

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You might feel like you're being pushed to make a romantic commitment. Don't resist too hard, especially if this is in your own best interests. You tend to be something of a rebel.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) You're still in rough negotiations, but that's OK. The more you hold out for what you want, the more likely you are to get it. Conditions are shifting in your favour, but it hasn't quite happened yet. It's important for you to be firm about the most important parts of your requests, at least through the end of the week.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You'll be gathering so much information today and so much confidence as you learn the ins and outs of what's going on. You'll emerge as a completely new person. When you went into this situation, you were in a daze. Now you're getting the wherewithal to reshape it to your specifications.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) Money is coming in today, although it may not seem like enough. This is actually a feeling you bring with you to the game. It seems like there's never enough, but don't be dismayed. That's the key to your success. Your natural tendency to board is what makes Cancer the sign of the millionaire.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You're strong and good looking, but you're also careful and considerate of others. Somebody in your life requires a lot of attention right now, so don't let all the energy go to feeding your own fantasies. Take care of somebody else's fantasies as well. That person can teach you something important.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You'll have to hustle to keep up with a demanding person's requests, but that's OK. If you humour this arrogant so-and-so now, you'll benefit later. You'll get the reputation of being outstanding in your field, and more business will come your way, though hopefully not from people who are this hard to deal with.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Somebody wants to tell you what to do, and you might decide it's not worth the effort to resist. Don't do what the other person wants if you're going to end up with less rather than more. Hold out for the very best of everything. Looks like you'll be able to get it without too much trouble.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) What appears to be a problem could turn out to be a blessing in disguise. A person who's difficult to get along with is actually your best coach. Don't shut your ears to one who's saying something you definitely don't want to hear. This could turn out to benefit you in more ways than you can possibly imagine.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You're raring to go, but somebody's clamping a lid on your enthusiasm, or so it seems. Actually, just the opposite is true. It's important for you to learn restraint. It makes you more effective in the long run. It'll be frustrating today, but if you think about your bigger objective, you'll see how important this is.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Put as much as you can into a solid investment. This is called priming the pump. You put a little in now, you'll get a lot out later. This is not a gamble, by the way. It's more like you're backing a friend with encouragement. Toss in a little good advice, too, just to protect your investment.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Don't get into a battle between two people with egos even bigger than yours. Just steer them towards the right way of thinking. You have a good idea of what that is, but both of them seem to be off track. That's why they're arguing so enthusiastically. Provide the puzzle piece they're missing and you'll end up looking like the hero.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You'll have several problems to solve today, and you might feel struck more than once. That's OK. Those moments will push you to exceed your normal level of creativity. What you end up with maybe nothing like what you thought you'd get, but that's the risk you take when you let your imagination have free rein.

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# UEFA bans Fiorentina for one season

GENEVA (AP) — Italian league leader Fiorentina was kicked out of this season's European club competition Sunday in punishment for the explosion that injured a match official and caused the suspension of a UEFA Cup game last week.

Fiorentina immediately announced it would appeal. If that fails, it will be Grasshoppers of Zurich that advance to the third round of the UEFA Cup against France's Bordeaux.

"Fiorentina was responsible for order and security both inside and around the stadium, before during and after the match and therefore liable for incidents of any kind," said UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Commission.

"Had there not been mitigating circumstances, Fiorentina AC would have been excluded from future UEFA club competitions as well," it said.

Specifically it cited the fact that it was apparently a supporter of Fiorentina's Italian rival, Salernitana, who threw the device. The match was held at Salerno, near Naples in southern Italy.

Fiorentina was leading 2-1 after the first 45 minutes of play. Having won the first leg against the Swiss side 2-0, it expected easily to advance to the third round of the UEFA Cup.

But the match was suspended after a Belgian off-



Fiorentina AC administrator manager Luciano Luna (R) and manager Giancarlo Antonioni look disappointed in Geneva, after the UEFA control and disciplinary body on the Fiorentina — Grasshopper firework incident decided to exclude the Italian club from the UEFA Cup competition (AFP photo)

field official was injured by the device hurled from the stands at the interval.

Philippe Flamant, the "fourth man," who helps the referee and linesmen, was taken to hospital with a right knee injury.

Several players were temporarily deafened.

The game was being played in Salerno because Fiorentina was paying the second and last round of suspension of its Franchi stadium as a result of fan violence during a 1997 Cup Winners Cup game.

UEFA said Fiorentina's previous bad record had been taken into account on deciding on the expulsion.

Fiorentina and Salerno fans have a history of bitterness. But Fiorentina club wanted to raise funds for victims of recent flooding in southern Italy and so played at its rival's grounds.

Italian papers reported that police questioned a local Salerno man who was a suspect.

Luciano Luna, Fiorentina's administrator,

said his club would appeal by the Wednesday midnight deadline. The appeal is likely to be heard next weekend.

"The bomb was aimed at Fiorentina, not against the referees and not against the Grasshoppers players," he said.

Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni said: "The fact that they did not place the objective responsibility on us makes us optimistic for the appeal."

"Let's hope that good sense prevails in the

appeal," he said. "Otherwise in an international tournament, any fan can go abroad to a game and influence the result with an act of violence like that at Salerno."

"We welcome the decision of UEFA and think it's a sensible decision given the circumstances," said Grasshoppers' president Romano Spadaro.

"We are looking forward to playing against Bordeaux," he said. "The third round takes place Nov. 24 and Dec. 8. Bordeaux was pleased."

"Fiorentina is a top club and for us it will now be less difficult to advance to the next round," said Bordeaux assistant coach Marius Tresor, who was in Florence Sunday to scout the Italian team in case of a different UEFA decision.

"Ethically, though, Fiorentina deserves to stay in (the tournament)."

The UEFA Cup is the least lucrative of the three European club tournaments. But even so, it is still an important money-spinner for the clubs.

Fiorentina is still on course for a place in next season's European Cup. It recovered its place at the top of the Italian league Sunday with a 4-1 win over last-place Venezia.

Fiorentina had lost two of its last three games to fall from the top spot.

## July Confederations Cup could include France

ZURICH (AFP) — FIFA president Joseph Blatter revealed on Monday that the controversial Confederations Cup, originally scheduled for January in Mexico, might be switched to July and that world champions France would agree to play.

The French had originally insisted they would not compete as European clubs would be unwilling to release players in mid-season for the competition.

Blatter said last month he was "surprised and disappointed" by France's refusal to take part as Europe's representatives in the eight-nation tournament and resolved to change tack to see if he could talk them round with new dates.

The tournament could now start in late July rather than on January 8.

The other countries due to take part are Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, Egypt, Brazil, New Zealand and the United States.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### AS Roma target Flamengo star

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — AS Roma are bidding to sign Flamengo star Iranildo, bringing their Brazilian contingent to five, media reports said here on Monday. Paulo Sergio, Aldair, Antonio Carlos and Cafu already play for the Serie A outfit so 22-year-old striker Iranildo would have no shortage of teammates to make him feel at home. "I only know that Roma are interested, as well as some other European clubs," said Iranildo, who admitted he would love to play in the Serie A. However, Flamengo president Kleber Leite insisted the young forward was not for sale.

### United named favourites

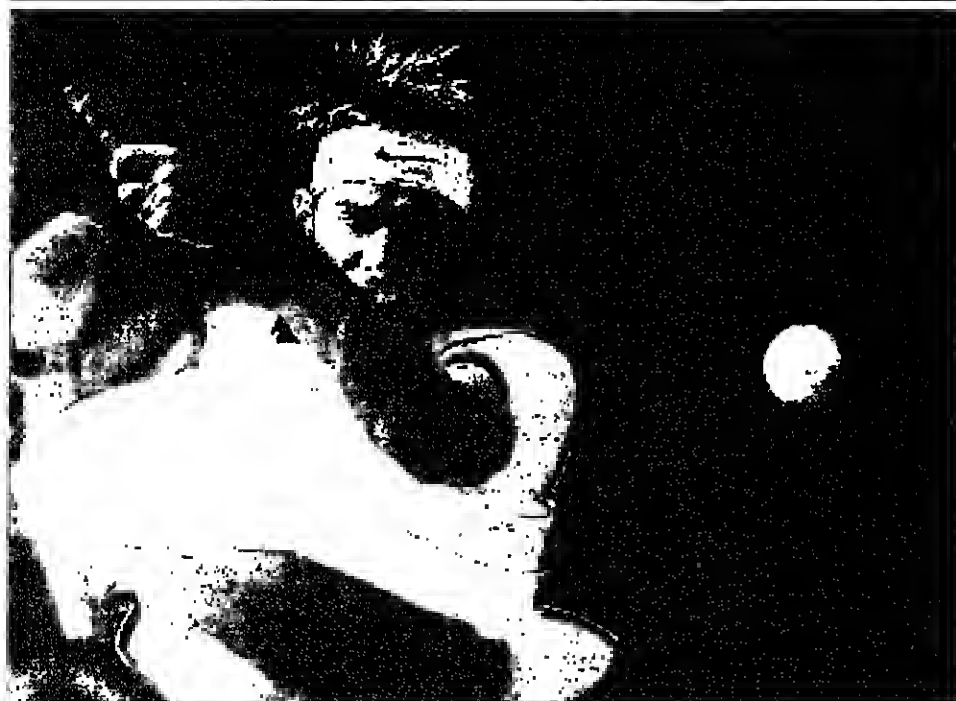
LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United were installed as 11-8 favourites to win the English Premiership title by British bookmakers William Hill despite being held to a 0-0 home draw by Newcastle on Sunday. Hill also offer reigning champions Arsenal at 7-4, Chelsea 5-1, Aston Villa 13-2, Liverpool 16-1, Leeds 33-1, West Ham 50-1, Leicester and Middlesbrough 80-1, and Newcastle and Tottenham at 100-1.

### Tottenham sign Argentinian

LONDON (AFP) — Argentinian full-back Mauricio Taricco on Monday became George Graham's first signing as manager of English Premiership outfit Tottenham. The 25-year-old full-back has completed a £1.75 million (\$2.75 million) move from first division Ipswich after passing a medical and agreeing personal terms. But Taricco has to recover from an ankle injury before coming into contention for a Spurs debut. Taricco cost Ipswich 175,000 from Argentinos Juniors in 1994 and was voted fans' player of the year at Ipswich last season.

### DiMaggio better after relapse

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Baseball great Joe DiMaggio is showing signs of improvement following a relapse last week in his fight against pneumonia and a lung infection. "He's lightly sedated, but he's sitting up," longtime friend and attorney Morris Engelberg said. "He's breathing much better." Engelberg said he wanted to dispel any notion that DiMaggio, the Hall of Fame outfielder known as the Yankee Clipper, was on his deathbed. "He's not dying," Engelberg said. "His X-rays the last two days show he's improved." The 83-year-old DiMaggio, who has been hospitalized since Oct. 12, has had his lungs drained at least twice to relieve severe breathing problems. In 13 seasons with the New York Yankees, DiMaggio played in 11 All-Star Games and was the American League's most valuable player three times. His 56-game hitting streak in 1941 is still a record.



Greg Rusedski

## Rusedski No. 11 in ATP rankings

PARIS (AFP) — Greg Rusedski's triumph over world No. 1 Pete Sampras at the Paris Open only pushed him up two places to 11th in the new ATP rankings published on Monday.

Although Canadian-born Rusedski took his points haul from 1,929 to a handsome 2,379, he remains just adrift of fellow Briton Tim Henman, who has 2,452 points.

Australian Mark Philippoussis, who reached the last eight in Paris, rose three places to 15th as a result while U.S. hope Todd Martin, beaten by Sampras in the semi-finals, jumped five from 26th to 21st.

In contrast, Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, a 1997 finalist at Bercy, slumped from 15th to 20th spot after his second round elimination.

1. Pete Sampras (USA)	4275 pts
2. Marcelo Rios (Chl)	3670
3. Patrick Rafter (Aus)	3423
4. Carlos Moya (Spa)	2959
5. Andre Agassi (USA)	2879
6. Alex Corretja (Spa)	2798
7. Karol Kucera (Svk)	2579
8. Evgueni Kafelnikov (Rus)	2557
9. Richard Krajicek (Ned)	2548
10. Tim Henman (Gbr)	2452
11. Greg Rusedski (Gbr)	2379
12. Petr Korda (Cze)	2114
13. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro)	1980
14. Albert Costa (Spa)	1823
15. Mark Philippoussis (Aus)	1792
16. Cedric Pioline (Fra)	1710
17. Jan Siemerink (Ned)	1669
18. Thomas Johansson (Swe)	1619
19. Felix Mantilla (Spa)	1593
20. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe)	1574
21. Todd Martin (USA)	1541
22. Alberio Berasategui (Spa)	1537
23. Thomas Enqvist (Swe)	1500
24. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra)	1472
25. Thomas Muster (Aut)	1344
26. Michael Chang (USA)	1302
27. Wayne Ferreira (Rsa)	1285

## Australia hunting for Venables successor

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia will not name a successor to Terry Venables as national team football coach until at least late next year, officials said Monday. Caretaker coach Raul Blanco, who is running the Olympic side, returned home Monday from Australia's 0-0 draw with the United States in San Jose, California at the weekend.

Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella, who replaced David Hill a few months ago, said Monday the focus over the next year or so would be on the Sydney 2000 Olympics, where Australia automatically qualifies as hosts.

"Over the next 12 months and until the latter part of 1999, Raul will continue to be the coach and between late 1999 and mid-2000 we'll look at appointing a coach to take us to the 2002 World Cup," he said.

Scarsella said China wants to play two matches against Australia's Olympic team this month.

Australia was badly demoralised by its World Cup elimination by Iran on away goals last November and the subsequent shock 1-0 loss to New Zealand for a place in the lucrative Confederations Cup in Mexico next January.

Former England manager Venables signed a huge short-term contract to get the Socceroos to this year's World Cup finals in France.



Newcastle's Alan Shearer (L) hastes a shot past Jaap Stam of Manchester United, during their Premier League clash at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester. Final score was 0-0 (AFP photo)

## Di Livio faces drugs judge

TURIN (AFP) — Juventus midfielder Angelo Di Livio was interviewed by a state prosecutor here on Monday as part of a continuing enquiry into drugs in Italian football.

Di Livio, who spent two hours with magistrate Raffaele Guariniello, is the latest in a series of current and ex-Juventus men to be quizzed over the club's training routines and the restoratives given to players.

The international winger left by a side entrance to avoid waiting reporters. Guariniello opened his enquiry last summer following insinuations by AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman that Juventus had used drugs to develop the muscles on Alessandro Del Piero and Gianluca Vialli.

## Blatter repeats backing for African World Cup

PARIS (R) — FIFA president Sepp Blatter repeated his belief that Africa should stage the soccer World Cup finals in 2006, in an interview published on Monday.

"If Africa manages, on a communications level, on the level of the terms and conditions, to meet the demands, it should get the World Cup," Blatter told the French daily Le Figaro.

"Africa has the right to organise the World Cup for all it has given to football," he said.

Blatter, who has often argued the case for Africa, said he had explained this to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on a visit to London last week.

South Africa and England, who held the finals in 1966, are among several countries bidding to stage the 2006 tournament.

Blatter said the joint staging of the 2002 finals, when Japan and South Korea are the co-hosts, was a mistake.

"It's not something to be repeated," he said. "Ask the

Belgians and the Dutch (joint hosts of Euro 2000) if they're happy to organise the next Euro jointly.

"If they are sincere, they will answer 'no'," he said. "It poses problems... who gets the opening match, who the final? On top of that, between Korea and Japan there is a real tradition of antipathy."

Blatter also said he was disappointed that France had withdrawn from FIFA's controversial Confederations Cup, scheduled to take place in Mexico in January.

"When a federation like France, FIFA founders and world champions, make the commitment and then pull out because of internal pressure two months from the competition, I find that disappointing," he said.

France withdrew because they would not be able to field a full strength side as European clubs refused to release their French internationals for the January 8-20 event.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre
	Lawrence Fishburne & Sam Neill .. in <b>EVENT HORIZON</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Julia Roberts & Richard Gere .. in <b>PRETTY WOMAN</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in <b>SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "I" <b>DEEP IMPACT</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "II" <b>9 1/2 WEEKS</b> Shows: 3:30, 5:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in <b>SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Harrison Ford .. in <b>SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play

Listings for films and showing times as received by cinemas and their advertising agencies.



## NBA season likely to be pushed into 1999

NEW YORK (AP) — NBA owners and players did not talk for the second straight day Sunday, raising concern that the start of the upcoming season may be pushed into 1999.

The 131st day of the North American league's lockout passed with no sign of when stalled negotiations would resume. The start of the season has already been pushed back to mid-December. If talks don't start up again soon, the season may not begin until next year, if at all.

The owners ended the most recent talks on Friday

after 1 1/2 hours when the union was unwilling to back off its proposal of keeping 60 percent of the revenue. Players received 57 per cent of revenue last season, prompting the league to reopen its labour contract.

The owners, who wanted to pay no more than 51.8 per cent last season, want the percentage scaled back to 50 per cent.

Union director Billy Hunter was angered Friday by the owners' move to contact players about the league's latest proposal in an attempt Hunter described as trying to divide the

union. Hunter claimed efforts were under way in Boston, Cleveland, Miami and Milwaukee to get players to support the NBA's latest plan.

The union will spend the next few days contacting players to keep them abreast of developments. The negotiating committee will probably meet this week to discuss making a new proposal to the league.

In the first regular-season work stoppage in NBA history, three more games were lost Sunday, increasing the total to 48.



A man wipes his face as he walks past a billboard advertising a new Olympic-size swimming pool being built near the centre of Sydney. Australian swimming authorities announced on the weekend that the swimming programme for the Sydney 2000 Olympics has been extended from seven days to eight, following an earlier decision by the world swimming governing body FINA to re-introduce semifinals at the games (Reuters photo)

## Bangkok promises an Asian Games to remember

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand is prepared to host an Asian Games to "cherish" and "remember" despite months of worries that facilities will not be ready on time, organisers said Monday.

The run-up to the December games has been blighted by fears that new facilities would not be complete and athletes and officials could become mired in Bangkok's notorious traffic jams.

"Nothing will stop us from making this 13th Asian Games the games to be remembered, the games to be cherished," Deputy Prime Minister Bhichai Rattakul told reporters on a tour of games facilities.

Bhichai, who also chairs the Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee, said all venues and support services were complete and ready for the December 6-20 games.

"Six months ago I was

very concerned, eight months ago I couldn't sleep, but now I can say without reluctance Thailand is ready to stage a good and exiting Asian Games."

Bhichai also shrugged off fears that Asia's financial crisis would overshadow the event. Already, some of the 41 competing nations including Indonesia and Malaysia have been forced to scale down their teams, blaming the economic turmoil.

"We have tried hard to create an event that lives up to its billing as the last great sporting event of the 20th century."

"Because the Asian Games is a chance for Asians to show how well we have developed on the sporting front," Bhichai said, pleading for countries to send their strongest possible teams.

"We pray they will try their best because the Asian Games is a chance for Asia

to show how far we developed on the sporting stage. "Despite the very great difficulties we are facing, of our economic crisis we still are able to hold these Asian games and all the countries in Asia are participating."

Organisers expect around 11,000 athletes and officials for the event, featuring 36 sports and two demonstration events.

Thai organisers admit that advance ticket sales have fallen short of expectations with only about 40 per cent of seats sold for the opening and closing ceremonies.

An initial target of some 330 million baht (\$9 million) for ticket sales has since been downgraded to 250 million. To plug a gap left by poor copyright and licensing revenue, the cabinet last week approved some 500 million baht in extra funding.

## Thais take drastic steps to cut congestion

BANGKOK (IR) — Thailand will close all schools and colleges, suspend road works and deploy an army of policemen to prevent traffic jams during next month's Asian Games, the chairman of the organising committee said on Monday.

However, Deputy Prime Minister Bhichai Rattakul, who describes Bangkok's notorious traffic as his biggest nightmare for the December 6-20 Games, said it appeared a key road link from central Bangkok to the venue for the opening ceremony in the east of the city would not be ready.

"The Thai government and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration have introduced urgent measures to help the traffic," he said.

"Firstly schools and universities all over the country will be closed. In addition all roadworks will be suspended during the games... finally, the assignment of 12,000 traffic police will ensure that everybody is in the right place at the right time," he said.

Police Colonel Jiraput

Lubimukrom, in charge of security for the Games, said 6,000 of the total would be deployed specifically for traffic control, while the rest would be assigned to security tasks.

Bhichai said 41 of the countries eligible to take part in the games had committed to doing so, adding: "Only Afghanistan and Palestine have still to indicate their participation."

He said some countries had withdrawn teams from some events and the total number of athletes and officials would lower than expected, at less than 11,000. However the event would still be the biggest Asian Games ever held, he said.

Police said that to cut traffic congestion, spectators would be encouraged to use public transport to reach venues and park-and-ride systems would be implemented.

Organisers said shuttle buses taking athletes and journalists between venues would be given special police escorts to speed their way through the traffic.

Organising committee members insisted all expressway links except that leading Bangkok's Hua Mark sports complex, which will host the opening and closing ceremonies and sports such as soccer, would be ready.

Journalists shown the three main sites during a press tour on Monday found the venues complete apart from minor finishing touches.

Parts of other expressway sections were useable but not fully finished and had to be negotiated by taking a slalom-like course around trenches and piles of asphalt and stones.

Santiparb Thejavanija, deputy secretary-general of the Games organising committee, said a team of 300 soldiers would be deployed to finish the main carpark at Muang Thong Thani, which with less than a month to go, remained an expanse of ploughed earth.

"This is Thailand," said one of the publicists for the games. "Everything is done at the last minute, it's a way of life here."

# Jordan Football Association cancels 1998 Premier League

By Aileen Bannayan

AMMAN — The Jordan Football Association (JFA) Monday cancelled the 1998 Premier League championship ending two weeks of controversy following Al Faisali's walkout and assault of referees midway through their Oct. 25 match against Al Qadissieh.

In a statement following the JFA's meeting headed by HRH Prince Abdullah, the association announced that the 1998 ten-team championship would be cancelled, citing the soon-to-start maintenance of the country's only two stadiums in Amman and Irbid in preparation for the Arab Games; Al Wihdat's participation in the Arab Champion Clubs tournament

in Jeddah Nov. 17-31; and the inability to regroup all teams for the remaining five weeks of the event for technical reasons.

The controversy was sparked by Al Faisali's walkout after the referee ruled their only goal offside and was followed by the JFA decision to suspend the matches before ruling that the match be replayed — a decision which further complicated matters.

During the past week, most clubs stressed that cancelling the league would have a negative impact. Titleholders Al Wihdat announced withholding their participation in case the match was replayed, while Al Qadissieh also refused the replay citing JFA rules that stipulate a withdrawing team is considered loser by a 3-0 score.

The JFA reached the replay decision after the five-man referees panel failed to come up with a unified stance regarding the legitimacy of the goal and recommended to the JFA the ratification of referee Othman Tamimi's decision of cancelling the goal.

The panel also noted that referee Tamimi did not end the match, but stopped the game following the attack on his colleagues and the subsequent walkout of Al Faisali after the cancellation of the match's sole goal.

Excluding the ill-fated Faisali-Qadissieh match, Al Wihdat headed the standings at the end of the 14th week, one point ahead of Al Faisali.

This year's competition has been plagued by continuous postponements starting with the month-long strike by clubs over ticket sales allocation and thereafter each time the national team was regrouped for regional events.

Al Wihdat were looking for their 5th consecutive Premier League title after winning the season-opening fourth Cup Winners' Cup.

Al Faisali took the second of the season's four soccer championships when they won their record 10th Jordan Cup.

Kufroum, playing in the prestigious league for the third year running, made history when they clinched their first ever major title by beating Al Hussein to win the country's third title — the JFA Shield.

## Thailand may mull Olympic bid

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand might consider bidding for a future Olympic Games if next month's Asian Games are a success, Deputy Prime Minister Bhichai Rattakul said Monday.

"We will have to see if the event and organisation is successful and then we will think about a bid for the Games," Bhichai, who chairs the Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee, said on a tour of new Asian Games stadiums here.

"I think the Olympics will come back to Asia in 2008, perhaps to China, so perhaps 2020 — I hope I am still alive to see the Games being hosted by Thailand then."

## Falcons fly high with win over Patriots

WASHINGTON (AFP)

The surprising Atlanta Falcons tested their mettle against another National Football League division leader Sunday, and stunned the New England Patriots 41-10.

The Falcons knocked the Patriots out of the first-place tie in the AFC East, and went a long way toward disproving the notion that they can't beat good teams.

The Falcons sacked Drew Bledsoe four times and forced two turnovers in the first half when they built a 28-3 lead. Defensive end Chuck Smith returned a fumble by Bledsoe 71 yards for a touchdown and Jamal Anderson ran for a pair of scores in the half.

"I really can't be more proud of my team," said Falcons coach Dan Reeves. "This game was big for us because we wanted to come in and show we were for real

and win a road game against a very good opponent."

Chris Chandler connected with tight end O.J. Santiago for a pair of touchdowns and Anderson recorded his sixth 100-yard game of the season for the Falcons, who improved the best start in the franchise's 37-year history.

Next week the Falcons move on to a showdown with NFC West rivals San Francisco for the outright division lead.

Rookie Wade Richey kicked a 46-yard field goal with 33 seconds left as the San Francisco 49ers rallied from a 16-point deficit then blew a lead before stealing the 25-23 victory from the Panthers.

The Panthers grabbed a 23-22 lead with 5:43 left when former 49ers fullback William Floyd hauled in from two yards.

But the 49ers regained the lead behind Ty Detmer, who started for the injured Steve Young and marched them back down the field for the winning points.

Steve Young, who was resting strained abdomi-

nal muscles, is expected to be ready for the Falcons, who handed the Patriots their worst home defeat since a 37-3 defeat to Denver in 1995.

The Patriots weren't the only team to lose ground in the tight AFC East race.

Vinny Testaverde soundly outplayed Doug Flutie in the battle of Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks as the New York Jets rolled to a 34-12 rout of Buffalo that cost the Bills their share of the division lead.

Testaverde completed 22-of-31 passes for 258 yards and three touchdowns while Flutie appeared confused by the Jets' defensive schemes and finished 12-of-30 for 154 yards with two interceptions.

It was the first matchup of Heisman quarterbacks since 1977, when Roger Staubach and Jim Plunkett squared off.

The Jets snapped a six-game losing streak against the Bills and continued to share first place in the AFC East with Miami, which

defeated Indianapolis 27-14.

The Denver Broncos remained untouchable in the AFC West, indeed in the entire league, despite an injury to quarterback John Elway, who strained rib muscles warming up against San Diego.

Bobby Brister stepped in and threw a pair of touchdown passes as the Broncos remained the NFL's lone unbeaten team with a 27-0 victory over the Chargers.

Their nine wins to open the season is the most by a defending Super Bowl champion since the San Francisco 49ers started the 1990 season 10-0.

Minnesota beat New Orleans 31-24, but suffered injuries to quarterbacks Randall Cunningham — who twisted a knee — and Brad Johnson.

Johnson, who broke his leg in week two to cede the starting job temporarily to Cunningham, came on for the injured Cunningham and broke his right thumb.

He still managed to throw for 316 yards, including a 19-yard left-handed completion in the game-winning drive.

In other games, Baltimore beat Oakland 13-10, St. Louis beat Chicago 20-12, Dallas downed the New York Giants 16-6.

Jacksonville beat Cincinnati 24-11, Philadelphia edged Detroit 10-9, Arizona beat Washington 29-27, Seattle beat Kansas City 24-12 and Tennessee beat Tampa Bay 31-22.

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مكتبة ابن رشد



## Turkish forces pursue PKK rebels in Iraq

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Thousands of Turkish troops backed by armour and supported by Iraqi Kurd militia forces were pursuing Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas deep inside northern Iraq on Monday, security officials said.

They said around 15,000 Turkish soldiers together with some 1,500 armoured vehicles had pushed about 30 kilometres into the Kurdish-held enclave after crossing the eastern end of the border near the town of Cukurca.

Troops also said they had killed 11 rebels inside Turkey in the last two days.

The Baghdad government, which has not controlled northern Iraq since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, condemned the action.

"Iraq strongly denounces the new Turkish aggression and considers it a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity," a foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Turkey's defence minister said on Sunday the operation aimed to destroy a group of 400 to 500 PKK separatist rebels who had fled to the mountain enclave from neighbouring Syria.

Damascus last month yielded to Turkish threats of military force and agreed not to allow the PKK to use Syria as a base for its armed campaign for self-rule in Turkey's mainly-Kurdish southeast. Syria denies aiding the rebels.

The operation comes as U.S. President Bill Clinton consulted security advisers on the diplomatic and military options against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein over his refusal to allow U.N. arms inspections. Britain's defence chief accused Saddam of triggering the worst crisis since the Gulf war and warned the Iraqi leader "time is draining away."

U.S. and British warplanes flying from southern Turkey protect northern Iraq from attack by Saddam's forces. But there has been no request to use the joint U.S.-Turkish base there for strikes against Iraq, Turkish officials said.

The commander of the air patrols, dubbed Northern

Watch, said the stand-off with Baghdad had not altered his missions.

"Operation Northern Watch is continuing to fly their normal operations to enforce the no-fly zone in northern Iraq," an aide quoted Colonel James Rindler as saying.

Turkish armed forces have set up a semi-permanent presence in the region ruled by two rival Iraqi Kurd factions since the Gulf war. Turkey's military has mounted regular offensives into the mountainous enclave where it says a power vacuum allows the PKK to set up bases.

"Peshmerga" fighters from Turkey's Iraqi Kurd allies, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), were working alongside Turkish troops in the offensive, the officials said.

"The PKK split up into three groups and fled. They are hungry and have no power to resist. Our peshmergas are constantly pursuing them and are determined to throw them out of our area," said a KDP commander by telephone from north Iraq.

A Turkish military official said the rebel group contained two senior PKK commanders long wanted by Turkey. "Osman Ocalan, the brother of the head of the PKK and Cemil Bayik are leading this group. The operation against them will continue until they are neutralised. They are moving towards the Iranian border and could slip across it at any moment," he said.

Turkey says it has all but defeated the rebels within its own borders and believes it can finish the job by eliminating the guerrillas' bases and support in neighbouring countries.

It has demanded the extradition of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan from Russia where Ankara says he fled after being expelled from Damascus as part of the Syrian deal.

More than 29,000 people have died in 14 years of fighting between Turkish security forces and the PKK.

The two northern Iraqi factions reached a U.S.-brokered peace deal last month ending years of intermittent fighting and obliges both sides to prevent PKK activity in northern Iraq.

## Turkey, U.S., Israel to stage military drills

ANKARA (AFP) — Military exercises involving the United States, Israel and Turkey will take place in the Mediterranean in early January, an Israeli defence ministry official said in an interview published Monday.

The naval wargames, dubbed "Reliant Mermada II," would be similar to those held in January this year and would concentrate on search and rescue missions, Israeli defence adviser David Ivry told the Turkish daily Milliyet.

Ivry said Jordan could take part as an observer "if the political and strategic atmosphere permits," as in previous exercises.

Questioned about possible military cooperation between Israel and Turkey's longtime

rivals Greece and Greek Cypriots, Ivry said: "In evaluating such cooperation, we would take into consideration Turkish interests."

Greece and Turkey have long been at odds over the sovereignty of islands in the Aegean Sea and over the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

Ivry said he opposed Greek Cypriot plans to deploy Russian S-300 ground-to-air missiles on the island, a move bitterly criticised by Turkey as a threat to regional stability.

Israel and Turkey are linked by a military cooperation accord, signed in February 1996. The accord was attacked by Iran and Arab nations which deemed the alliance a threat to their security.



OUT OF IRAQ: U.N. workers on Monday load a box into a forklift truck before it is shipped out of Iraq along with five UNSCOM inspectors who were withdrawn because Iraq would not let them work (AP photo)

## PLO's foreign minister rejects change of charter

DAMASCUS (R) — PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi said on Monday he opposed at present the cancellation of articles in the Palestinian Charter that called for the destruction of Israel.

"It is wrong to change articles of the Palestinian Charter at this stage," Kaddoumi said in reference to plans of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to change the articles to comply with the latest Palestinian-Israeli peace deal.

Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was speaking

to reporters after talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

Syrian officials said they had discussed the latest developments affecting the Palestinians in light of the Palestinian-Israeli land-for-security deal signed in Washington last month.

They said Sharaa reiterated Syria's position that the deal had "deprived Palestinians of their basic rights and... turned the Palestinian Authority into a body with the job of protecting the Israeli occupation of the Arab lands."

After the talks, Kaddoumi accused Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "pushing the region to more tension and a new war."

"The repressive policies of Netanyahu against our Palestinian people and his approval of building more settlements in the occupied Arab lands will have serious consequences on the whole region," Kaddoumi said.

Kaddoumi opposes the original Palestinian-Israeli peace deal signed in Washington in 1993 following secret talks in Norway.

Palestinian sources said that Kaddoumi after his talks with Sharaa met George Habash, head of the Marxist

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) to discuss joint action over the latest agreement.

During his visit to Syria, Kaddoumi is also due to meet leaders of other of Palestinian factions opposed to peace with Israel.

The sources said Kaddoumi was originally due to attend a meeting of 10 Palestinian leaders in Damascus on Sunday but had arrived too late.

Leaders of the 10 groups said during their Sunday gathering they would boycott any meetings of the PNA to change the charter.

The PLO said on Saturday its executive committee had approved a letter from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to U.S. President Bill Clinton specifying which clauses of the 1964 charter were inconsistent with Israeli-Palestinian peace deals since 1993.

The latest peace agreement made no mention of a vote, saying only that members of the parliament and other Palestinian groups would be invited to a meeting next month in Gaza, to be addressed by Clinton, to reaffirm decisions on nullifying the charter's clauses on Israel.

## Damascus Declaration group to meet

DOHA (R) — Ministers from Egypt, Syria and six Gulf Arab states meet in Qatar this week to try to breathe new life into a regional alliance amid mounting tension over Iraq halting cooperation on U.N. weapons inspections.

The Arab states signed up to the Damascus Declaration with commitments on closer cooperation after the 1991 Gulf war, but the group has delayed its Doha meeting for almost a year because of hiter internal squabbling.

On their agenda will be the latest regional crisis, prompted by Baghdad's decision to halt cooperation with United Nations weapons inspectors charged with disarming Iraq.

Alongside the Iraq stand-off, also on the agenda are the Middle East peace process and tension between Syria and Turkey.

## Iran group says to hit if ex-hostages return

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian group naming itself after Islamists known for political assassinations said it would launch suicide attacks against former U.S. hostages if they visited Iran, a national newspaper reported on Monday.

"A group called Devotees of Islam announced it would follow the path of suicide martyrs... if Bruce Laingen, Barry Rosen and other persons related to the former U.S. den of spies return to Tehran," the conservative daily Quds said.

Laingen and Rosen were among 52 Americans held hostage for 444 days by militant Iranian students who in 1979 seized the U.S. embassy, which was denounced as a "den of spies." Laingen was the charge d'affaires and Rosen was the press attaché.

Students supporting moderate Iranian President Mohammad Khatami suggested last week that all the former hostages should return to the Islamic republic as guests.

Conservative and hardline opponents of Khatami have spoken out against the invitation and said Laingen and Rosen were planning to come.

In a telephone call to Quds, a person saying he represented the Devotees of Islam recalled

a 1983 suicide car bomb attack by radical Muslims which killed 241 U.S. servicemen in Lebanon. He also urged Iranian officials to follow the ideals of the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who often condemned the United States as the "Great Satan," Quds said.

"The history of the Great Satan's treason and hostility towards the government and people of the Islamic republic is clear to all," the daily quoted the spokesman as saying.

The caller said the Devotees of Islam were not affiliated with any political organisation or faction.

The original Devotees of Islam (Fedayan Al Islam), set up in the 1940s, was responsible for assassinations of opponents and state officials before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Conservative Deputy Hassan Kamran on Sunday blasted officials for not blocking the invitation of the ex-hostages.

"Why does the foreign ministry let anyone invite... spies?" Kamran said in a parliament debate carried on state radio. "Is there something secret going on? Our people will not allow anyone to make preparations for direct talks with America."

## 'Allies closer to Iraq strike than thought'

(Continued from page 1)

"He [Clinton] has asked for follow-up on both fronts. His advisers will report back to him in a few days. The president has made no decision," Leavy said after the meeting.

But another senior U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters that two basic military attack plans had been prepared by the Defence Department, one of them "larger and more punishing than the other."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defence Secretary William Cohen, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger and CIA Director George Tenet met Clinton at his country retreat at Camp David in Maryland. Army General Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni, head of U.S. forces in the Gulf and Middle East, also attended.

"It is very clear that there is a huge amount of frustration and irritation with Saddam Hussein," the senior U.S. official told Reuters later.

"There are two basic military plans. One is larger and more punishing than the other. Obviously, the president has the right to ask for variations of any plans," the official added without elaboration.

But published reports have suggested the limited plan would entail attacks by dozens of \$1 million Tomahawk cruise missiles and perhaps warplanes on suspected Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological targets, while a broader contingency proposal included military bases, command centres and even Saddam's internal security apparatus.

The senior U.S. official said other countries — including Russia and France — which supported a deal between Saddam and Annan earlier this year on the inspections "felt betrayed" by Baghdad's recent new refusal to cooperate with inspectors.

"I think people are tired of being put through wringers on this. Does this guy [Saddam] pay any attention to deals? The answer seems to be no," U.S.

officials say they want to end the standoff by using diplomatic pressure on Saddam, although an attack on key military targets is also being considered, perhaps starting with cruise missiles.

U.S. analysts say Clinton faces very tough choices. If he does not have full international backing, any military assault could seriously upset allies in the region, particularly Arabs, and may have little effect on Iraq's long-term ability to produce chemical and biological arms.

If he continues a policy adopted after the last standoff in February, putting the onus on the United Nations to solve the dispute by diplomacy, he risks damaging U.S. credibility as well as the revival of a serious threat to stability in the Middle East.

Five arms monitors left Baghdad for Bahrain on Monday and 10 more would leave on Wednesday, said Caroline Cross, special assistant to the director of the Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (MVC).

Fifteen monitors left Iraq on Saturday after a decision by UNSCOM chairman Richard Butler to reduce its Baghdad-based staff by 20 per cent.

Cross said with over 100 staff remaining in the country after Wednesday, UNSCOM had the capacity to resume its work immediately.

"We do retain the capacity to start our work again and the people who are remaining behind do have the skills and the experience to do our work should become necessary," she said.

Visiting former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said if U.S. and British leaders visited sanctions-hit Iraqi hospitals and saw that children were dying they would not consider any military strikes.

If Clinton and [British Prime Minister Tony] Blair stood in the hospital that I stood and witnessed what I had witnessed, I think the question of referring to war will be put aside," he told reporters in Baghdad.

## Man claims damages over cancelled marriage

SOFIA (AFP) — A Bulgarian is claiming \$12,000 in damages from the state after his wife left him citing an administrative error which made their marriage invalid. Authorities realised recently that 7,500 weddings carried out in the Rousse region in northern Bulgaria were not legal because the officials who carried them out were not qualified to do so. Stamen Ivanov's wife took advantage of the ruling to leave her husband and take their five-year-old child with her to Greece, where she has now found work. The abandoned husband is seeking \$12,000 from the state for negligence.

## Hogan to throw hat into presidential ring

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Inspired by the victory in the Minnesota governor's race of former pro-wrestler Jesse Ventura, another veteran of the sport, Hulk Hogan, plans to run for president in 2000, Time magazine says. "When Jesse won, I said to my wife, 'I'm 10 times more popular than him,'" Hogan told Time. "People know Hulk Hogan like they know McDonald's and Chevrolet." The weekly said Hogan planned to approach billionaire Ross Perot, CNN founder Ted Turner and talk show queen Oprah Winfrey as possible running mates.

## British tabloid apologises to Jackson

LONDON (AFP) — U.S. popstar Michael Jackson Monday reached an out-of-court settlement with a British tabloid newspaper over articles alleging his face was disfigured as a result of cosmetic surgery. Jackson's lawyer told British High Court judge that after a six-year legal battle the litigation had been settled "amicably" on confidential terms. He said that on June 24, 1992, a photograph and article was published on the front page of the Daily Mirror newspaper alleging that Jackson's face was "hideously disfigured and visibly scarred as a result of a large number of cosmetic surgery procedures."

## Constant wins France's top literary prize

PARIS (AFP) — France's top literary prize, the Goncourt, Monday went to Paule Constant for her novel recounting the relationship between four women at a U.S. seminar on feminism. "Confidence pour Confiance" (Secret for Secret), the Goncourt, established in 1903, carries only an \$8 prize but ensures winners will make it onto the best-seller list. The novel that wins the prestigious prize is put on sale bound with the eye-catching and red "Goncourt Prize" ribbon.

## Jones unhappy for coverage of spill over hours

HARLINGEN (AP) — Tommy Lee Jones' recent horseback spill during a polo match didn't hurt as much as the press coverage he got. Before the extent of his injuries — which proved to be only bumps and bruises — were known, some reports made the Oct. 3 accident sound more frightening than it proved to be. "The only thing that's scary is the way the media sensationalised and exaggerated and flat lied about it in order to increase their ratings," Jones says in Sunday's (Hartington) Valley Morning Star. "I feel insulted by having been exploited by the media."

## Libyan lawyers back at U.N. for critical Lockerbie talks

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Libyan lawyers were set to return to the United Nations Monday for critical talks aimed at obtaining Libya's surrender to Britain of two Libyan suspects wanted for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook told London's Sunday Times that he was hopeful Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi would hand over Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, who are wanted in connection with the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The mid-air explosion killed 270 people on the

plane and on the ground. But Cook repeated that the U.S. and British stand on the main sticking point — the location where any prison sentence would be served — was non-negotiable.

"If convicted of offences under Scottish jurisdiction, they will serve time in a Scottish prison," he said.

Washington and London agreed in August to have the men tried in the Netherlands under Scottish law and with Scottish judges, prompting the U.N. Security Council to vote unanimously to suspend six-year-old sanctions against Libya once the two men were handed over.

Libya agreed in principle to extradite the suspects, but

has since demanded "guarantees" on their fate if they are found guilty, particularly that they be imprisoned in the Netherlands or Libya rather than being sent to jail in Scotland.

The Libyan lawyers have been studying U.S. and British "clarifications" in response to the Libyan demands, following meetings here last month with chief U.N. legal counsel Hans Corell of Sweden who is in touch with all the parties.

Corell has just returned from Europe, where according to Western diplomats he discussed arrangements for the suspects' transfer to a Dutch military facility where

the trial is to be held. U.S. and British diplomats hope that this round of negotiations with the lawyers will be the last, before the two suspects arrive in the Netherlands.

But U.S. charge d'affaires Peter Burleigh told reporters here on Friday that he was unaware of any breakthrough.

Burleigh hoped that "whatever outstanding issues there may be from the Libyan side that those will be satisfied, and that we can move ahead with... the delivery of the two accused to the Netherlands."

A Libyan diplomat who requested anonymity told AFP that Libya wanted more clarifications from the other

parties. The diplomat said that Corell was working seriously on the matter with all parties, and "if we continue to do so, we will reach a solution very soon."

Cook said, meanwhile, that he was particularly encouraged by the recent appointment of a senior Libyan legal team headed by Kamel Al Maghour, a former foreign minister, to represent the pair.

U.S. and British officials point out that Dec. 21 is the Lockerbie bombing 10th anniversary, and are threatening to seek the imposition of additional U.N. sanctions if Tripoli fails to deliver the suspects.

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